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Two sent to prison over pub attack

Two men have been jailed for an attack on a 63-year-old pub regular who went to the aid of its landlady.

Robert Pearce, who used the Robin Hood, The Crescent, Willenhall for the past 24 years, had his left arm broken and still suffers after effects 15 months and two operations later.

John Evans, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court this week: "There was an altercation between the pub landlady Joanne Bevan and some girls and Mr Pearce went to help her."

"His arrival simply stimulated three young men in their 20s who were not regulars of the pub. Mr Pearce was dragged outside by them, knocked to the ground and kicked."

The three involved, Gary Tolley, Ben Crutchley and Richard Greensill, were arrested at the scene when officers arrived soon afterwards.

All pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm on Mr Pearce on July 10 last year.

Tolley, aged 24, was on bail at the time after breaking the jaw of a man and his barrister Miss Wendy Miller told the court: "He is utterly ashamed of his actions."

Walter Bealby, defending 23-year-old Greensill, said his client had played a lesser part in the attack.

Tolley from Coalway Road, Bloxwich and Crutchedley, 22, of Lowe Avenue, Darlaston were each jailed for 14 months.

Greensill from Cash Joynson Avenue, Darlaston had a 12-month jail sentence suspended under supervision for two years and ordered to pay £500 costs and do 150 hours unpaid work.

Rise on hold for council cabinet

Senior councillors in Walsall have turned down planned pay rises of up to £2,300 a year after the move was criticised.

The ruling Tory group – whose cabinet members were in line for the extra money under plans revealed recently – agreed at a group meeting last week that they would defer the rises for at least another year. All councillors were due to be asked to approve proposals to increase extra-responsibility payments of the cabinet members.

Under plans the payments would have been increased by £2,300, £1,500 or £1,000 every year for the next four, on top of a basic allowance of more than £10,375.

But the move was criticised as the council is battling to save £65 million, with budget cuts and job losses on the way.

Opposition group leader Labour's Councillor Tim Oliver welcomed the apparent U-turn. And said he was pleased the Tories had listened to public opinion and decided to vote against the recommended increase which was due to be presented to the full council meeting tonight.

"It's good to see that Tory councillors have rejected the argument of their leader Mike Bird who said in the press that he and his cabinet members deserved this pay rise. But they have only suspended the move until next year," he said.

"By that time, the cuts will be coming into force."

Councillor Bird conceded no rise would be proposed until next year. But he denied there had been a U-turn.

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Festive celebration is latest casualty of cutbacks CHRISTMAS SWITCH ON CANCELLED

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

The annual celebrity festive lights switch-on and town centre Christmas tree will be axed by Walsall council this year due to a lack of funding.

Traders today hit out at the decision by Walsall Council, whose deputy council leader Adrian Andrew said no money had been allocated for the festivities this year.

The extravaganza had previously been organised through the old Walsall Town Centre Management Partnership which ceased to trade last month.

Lights will still be put up around the town but there will not be the grand switch-on in November, which has previously attracted X Factor stars and even Hollywood actor Matthew Marsden who hails from the Yew Tree Estate.

Thousands

Other guests included X Factor contestants Eoghan Quigg and Rachel Adeleji last year and Aldridge-born Paralympic Gold winner Eleanor Simmonds in 2008.

A 30ft tree has been put in The Bridge and Digbeth over the last few years with thousands of people attracted to the switch-on.

Regeneration chief and deputy council leader Mr Andrew said: "It costs £3,000 for the tree to go up with lights and it is money that has not been allocated.

"We are still putting lights up to create a festive feel. It is a shame but we have to look after the district centres too." The event usually coincided with late-night shopping in a bid to boost business for shops and market traders. Shops will open late on Thursdays from November 25, but the Saddlers Centre will not open until December 2.

The decision has been branded as a blow to everyone in the town. Walsall Market Traders Association chairman Tony Larmer said: "It draws in people and traders and shops will be disappointed. When Ellie came you couldn't move there were so many people."

Schools plan buried

A multi-million pound scheme to transform crumblings schools across Walsall will not be revived despite a plea to challenge the decision, council chiefs say.

The £100 million Build Schools for the Future project was axed in the summer. The Labour group in Walsall called for the council to press the Secre-

tary of State to reinstate the programme. A motion was tabled to full council this week to reverse the decision to halt the rebuild or refurbishment of six secondaries.

But the ruling Tory group ruled against such an approach. They now want to concentrate on a survey of all schools to assess future refurbishments.

Cutting through recession



Adele Higham, in the chair at Adele's Hair, Beauty and Fitness with staff from left Corrina Wright, Michelle Elliot and Shaan Patel.

A young businesswoman is cutting through the recession and making a success of her salon just two years after completing her training.

Aged just 20, Adele Higham, from Walsall Wood, is the successful owner of Adele's Hair, Beauty and Fitness Centre in Bloxwich.

She left school at 16 and enrolled at the Peter Payne hairdressing college and completed her training at South Staffs College, Tamworth in 2008. With the help of her parents Paul and Deborah, Adele opened the unisex hairdressers.

She said: "It takes a lot to build up, we're doing OK." Adele now employs three staff and her mother is a partner. The salon offers rewards to loyal customers.

Adele said: "We do loyalty cards for customers each time they come in they get a stamp. They can get 10 per cent off, a half-price facial and at the end they get a free wash and blow dry." Customers also have the opportunity to enter a free monthly raffle. Prizes are a free cut and blow dry for women and a free hair cut for men.

Call the salon on 01922 408043.

Poppy day parking fees are waived

Charges will be waived at car parks in Walsall on Remembrance Sunday after a 'U-turn' by council chiefs.

Parking fees have been suspended throughout the day on all council-owned car parks as people pay their respects to the fallen.

It comes after last year's event saw people, including veterans, slapped with £25 fines – many of which were later rescinded.

Council leader Mike Bird said the decision to waive charges had come after "weeks of consideration". He said: "We have listened carefully to the views of veterans."

Mr Bird added there were comments made by them and others involved in last year's event, and he pledged that "we can do things better this time around."

He said: "People will be able to pay their respects to the fallen, or reflect on the outstanding bravery being shown by servicemen and women currently involved in conflict without having to worry about paying to park."

"We feel that this is absolutely the right thing to do on a day that is, quite honestly, like no other in its significance and meaning."

Wardens will still be on duty to ensure drivers are parking considerately and not blocking pathways for wheelchair users.

Many of the people who gathered to pay their respects last year said they had not been aware of new Sunday parking charges which had come into force in September last year.

The council was later forced to apologise and refunds were issued on appeal.

Hundreds of people are expected to gather at the town's Cenotaph this Sunday for the laying of wreaths. A procession will make its way from the Council House at 10.25am to the cenotaph in Bradford Street, where an open air service will take place.

Hymns will be played by the Staffordshire Band and Credo Singers.

Connie sings to millions on TV

Connie Talbot performed to millions when a concert in South Korea was broadcast worldwide.

The nine-year-old, of Streetly, sang her signature tune 'Over the Rainbow' in Seoul to celebrate the forthcoming G20 world leaders summit held there later this week. It was her third visit to South Korea, where she is so popular her song has been selected as the backing music for a major fountain there.

Throughout the day, the impressive Balpo Bridge shoots colourful jets of water into the air in time with Connie's version of the Wizard of Oz classic.

At Saturday night's concert, Connie was given the honour of opening the show. Delegates from the G20 group looked on as the Blackwood Primary School pupil performed. Later this month, the schoolgirl will switch on the festive lights in Wednesbury.



Connie Talbot

Foundation status bid delay

Walsall Manor Hospital's bid to gain freedom from Government control may not happen until 2013.

Bosses confirmed the hospital's bid for foundation trust status would not be submitted by the end of this year.

They had previously said the Moat Road hospital was on track to gain foundation trust status by 2011.

They say it could now take

another three years, and they put the delay down partly to this year's move to a new £174m base.

Dawn Kenny, director of corporate affairs and trust secretary, said changes to the procedure of becoming a foundation trust had also had an impact.

She added: "We are therefore re-entering the application process under this new regime which will also reflect the integration of com-

munity services into the organisation from April 2011."

Borough health chiefs are working with the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority to agree the exact timeframes for moving through the foundation trust assessment.

Trust status gives hospitals control of their own affairs, but managers must prove they are ready to go it alone.

Around 100 nurses, care assistants and clerical staff are being recruited by health chiefs in Walsall.

Hundreds are expected to attend a recruitment day being held at Walsall's Manor Hospital. Bosses said the move shows a commitment to frontline services despite the uncertain financial climate.

Jobs are up for grabs at the

the hospital and within the borough's community health services. Jobs include registered nurses, care assistants, district nurses and therapy staff, as well as ward clerks and discharge clerks.

Annabel Smith, Walsall NHS Manor Hospital Trust spokeswoman, said: "In this uncertain climate, we're really committed to making sure frontline serv-

Security cameras to catch racers

A town plagued by boy racers and illegal street racing is to get security cameras and flashing warning signs to help tackle the problem.

Police are doubling their efforts as part of an ongoing campaign to tackle the problem in Aldridge.

Cameras, flashing warning signs and extra police patrols will all be used in the fight against boy racers.

Since August, 20 court summonses have been issued to drivers. The issue first arose about a year ago but police say the crackdown is having an impact.

Brickyard Road has been a particular hotspot for the illegal racing and drivers showing off their supered-up cars.

Acting Sergeant Natalie Bird said: "We have listened to our concerned residents and have taken action."

"With the help of our local businesses and residents we have been able to pinpoint the exact location and times when most of the vehicles turn up."

Sgt Bird added: "We are happy to report that since the operation has been conducted we have seen a marked improvement and the problems have decreased."

Anyone affected by boy racers and off road vehicles should call police in Aldridge on 0345 113 5000.

Town ready for parade

A parade will head down Bloxwich High Street on November 14 to mark Remembrance Sunday.

The procession, made up of members of the Bloxwich British Legion and the Bloxwich branch of the Royal Naval Association, will start at the bottom of High Street at about 10.30am and head up towards the Cenotaph.

The parade will then stop for its two-minute silence at 11am before heading back down High Street.

Church fair

Darlaston Methodist Church, Slater Street, Darlaston, is holding a Christmas fair on November 13, from 11am. Homemade cakes, toys, jewellery and lucky dips will all be on offer. Entry is free.

Police station on hold

Chief officers have said the future of Walsall's new £10 million police is on hold fuelling uncertainty over the building.

Council chiefs had struck a provisional agreement with West Midlands Police which would see the town's main police headquarters move from its base in Green Lane to mainly council-owned land in Hatherston Street.

But now West Midlands Police Authority revealed the plan is on hold, despite other stations being built in the region.

The £10 million West Bromwich police station is on course to open next summer, while Bilston's new £3.5m station is expected to open in September.

Walsall police have three years to move from their current base, which was built in the 1960s and houses 500 staff, as it does not comply with disability access laws.

Police Authority spokeswoman Caroline Schubert said: "The scheme is on hold and there is no further information at the moment."

Bosses had previously confirmed funding had been earmarked in the force's capital plan but said they were awaiting further announcements.

Takeover is sealed

The takeover of two Walsall factories has effectively been sealed.

More than 70 staff work at Raxton, Aldridge and Redapt Engineering in Darlaston, which have been acquired in the £19.2 million takeover of parent company Mount Engineering by Cooper Controls.

Cooper gatecrashed an earlier £16m bid from the Yorkshire-based Redhall Group, trumping it with a higher offer and securing 91 per cent of the shares.

The parents of a Falklands War hero from Walsall are preparing to visit the battlefield where he was killed.

Private Mark Dodsworth was shot as he tended to an injured soldier during the battle of Mount Longdon in 1982.

Parents Bryan and Carole will go on the emotional pilgrimage to the islands for the first time, and attend a remembrance service in honour of fallen heroes.

The family, from Coalpool, Walsall, will also lay a plaque next to a tree planted in his memory at the capital, Stanley. Trees were planted by townfolk to remember each person killed in the conflict.

Pte Dodsworth from Walsall was a paramedic with the Third Battalion of the Parachute Regiment when he was killed aged 24.

The former pupil of Manor Farm school in Rushall joined the Junior Leaders in Folkestone straight from school before joining the forces.

Sniffer

He also carried out training at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire where he worked with sniffer dogs up to his 18th birthday, when he was deployed in Northern Ireland.

He was based at Palace Barracks in Northern Ireland for four-and-a-half years, and went on to meet his future wife Caroline. They were married for 14 months before he died in action.

On his return from Northern Ireland he trained as a medic and was posted to the Falklands on his 24th birthday on April 5. He died on June 12, 1982.

The battle of Mount Longdon was one of the final engagements of the war. The battalion suffered the most losses for a single unit, with 23 killed during two days of shelling.

Pte Dodsworth's father Bryan, aged 74, also served with the Parachute Regiment for three years and was involved in the Suez Campaign of 1956.

He will be joined by Carole, aged 71, and will be among a number of other families at the service. They will go to Mount Longdon as part of their journey.

Mr Dodsworth said: "It is the first time we have been out there and we are going to pay our own tribute. Hopefully it will help bring some closure."

"Mark was a gentle giant, a quiet unassuming lad. He loved what he did and joined up straight from school."

"It will be quite emotional for Carole but as a former para myself I am curious to see what

he was up against and where he was when he got there."

He added they had no regrets about Mark following his ambition to serve in the armed forces. "When you are trained as a soldier you want to put that into operation," he said.

Funded

"I had been through it myself and know how he was feeling – he wanted to serve his country." The trip has been funded through the Army Benevolent Fund but the family are

looking to raise money in recognition of the gesture. They have held raffles and a quiz night.

Memorial

The parents of another war hero who was killed during the Falklands conflict are also due to travel to the islands.

Adrian Anslow, from Wolverhampton, was an electrical mechanic with the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm. He was on board the Atlantic Conveyor when it sank after being hit by two Argentine missiles. He was among 12 sailors

who were killed. He was 20 at the time. His parents Alf and Rose, of Compton, are expected to pay their respects at a special memorial for the Atlantic Conveyor's lost servicemen.

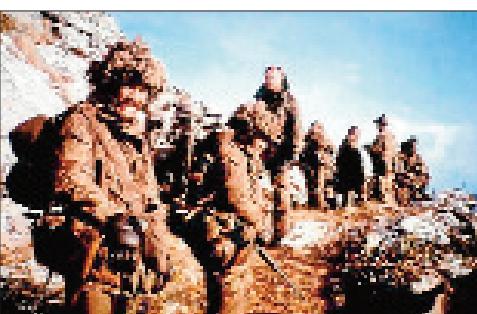
Ceremony

It will be the first time they have visited the Falklands since the year after his death. Anslow Gardens in Ashmore Park, Wednesfield, was named after Adrian in a ceremony in 1996.

Families of the Falklands heroes in sad pilgrimage



Bryan and Carole Dodsworth look at the scroll honouring their son



Soldiers in the aftermath of the Battle of Mount Longdon



Mark Dodsworth in uniform with his dog King

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Glyn will run cycle sessions

A charity fundraiser from Willenhall will be holding a static cycling training session at a new sports store when it opens in Wednesbury.

Glyn Marston, of Essington Road, will be at the new Decathlon store on November 20.

The session is one of many public training sessions he is doing as he prepares for his next big cycling challenge.

Mr Marston is in training for the Triple Tower Challenge.

The marathon will see him bike 1,500 miles in 12 days.

He will pass through three countries in the space of 12 days and will even pass through Mülhouse, the French town which is twinned with Walsall.

Decathlon is opening in Axletree Way on November 18 and is creating 65 jobs.

Choir to perform

Opera classics, Welsh hymns and songs from the shows will be among the highlights at a concert in Walsall.

A popular male voice choir from the borough will take to the stage at the Forest Arts Centre next month.

Sheffield Male Voice Choir will perform at the Hawbush Road venue in Leamore on November 24 from 1.30pm.

Tickets cost £4 and can be booked by calling 0845 111 2900 between 10am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Alternatively, tickets can be bought at the Forest Arts Centre or Central Library, in Lichfield Street, Walsall town centre.

On the day, tickets are also available 30 minutes before the show.

Dance for renal unit

A Walsall charity is to host a ballroom and sequence dance evening for kidney patients.

The Pelsall Kidney Machine and Research Committee ball will be on November 19 at Springvale Social Club, in Millfields Road, Bilston.

Tickets, £2.50, are available from the club or on 01922 683159 and 01902 893872.

The dance will start at 8pm and proceeds go to the renal unit at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Brownhills market back even bigger and better



Plenty of customers were back in spite of the wet weather and browsing around the many stalls of the newly reopened Brownhills Market.



Eager to grab a bargain the crowds turned out to make the reopening of Brownhills Market a success.



Serving up some warm grub are from left, Stacey, Steve and Chris Roberts.



Shoppers head to the meat stall to grab a bargain.

Brownhills Market is back in business and booming after standing empty for more than six months.

Almost 100 traders started setting up stalls from 5am and vowed to bring the market back to its former glory.

Despite the heavy early morning rain, shoppers and traders turned up in droves for its official opening last week and the market will be open on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Mohammed Sajid was the last man standing with his computer stall when the market

stopped running in March. The 36-year-old, of Birmingham, said: "When I heard it was coming back, I was very keen to return."

"It seems to be a lot better than it was before. There are a lot more traders here, and the rent is cheaper."

Popular

Steve Roberts, aged 56, helps run the Pork Roast food van, which also trades at the Bescot Sunday market run by LSD.

"It just shows how popular the market is with the amount of traders that are here today," he said. The market first closed in July 2009 after previous operators failed to get a lease with council chiefs. It was taken

over by the council last September to run Tuesdays and Saturdays. Heavy rain did not stop shoppers coming back. Traders said they also jumped at the chance to bag a pitch at the market. To help celebrate the relaunch, meat supplier Willow Farm offered 200 turkeys every hour at £2 each from 10am to 2pm. Promotional officer Donna Pattison, 41, of Turnberry Road, Bloxwich, said: "I used to come here years ago. It's good to have it back."

"I am particularly impressed by the fruit and veg on offer."

Tony Mallett, 51, of Stourbridge, who helps sell on Willow Farm's van said: "We want to help bring the market back to its former glory. The people of Brownhills need

this market. It has always been a good food market in the past and can still be one in the future." LSD Promotions director Dermot McGillicuddy said: "We honestly believe this market has got a great future, and this time it is back to stay."

Failed

The market, running for more than 40 years, closed in July 2009 after previous operators failed to get a lease with Walsall Council. Last September it was taken over by the council, which ran it on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The Tuesday market was scrapped at the start of the year due to falling numbers.

New alert system in homes

An alarm system to alert emergency services to potential bogus callers is being rolled out to homes in Walsall. The device is on offer to pensioners and vulnerable residents.

It would be triggered by pressing a button which sends a signal to a control room and also allow care bosses to listen in to conversations at the door if the householder believes they have been targeted.

It is among a new range of electronic equipment supplied to Walsall Council.

The equipment includes bed sensors which warn of a potential fall, smoke alarms and key safes.

The system is being introduced to replace the old-style pull-cord and intercom systems, which are being phased out after 30 years.

Walsall Council Care chief, Councillor Barbara McCracken, said: "People can simply refuse to open the door and press the button to alert us there is suspicious behaviour in a particular area.

"If someone has opened the door to a suspicious caller and is becoming anxious and worried, they can press this button and we can listen in silently to the conversation."

"We can ring the police and this is treated as a 999 call."

Suspect is remanded

A man has appeared in court accused of assaulting a police officer after an alleged theft in Walsall.

Shawn Johnson, 19, of Pershouse Street, Chockley, appeared last week facing two charges of assault and theft of bottles of beer during an alleged incident on October 28.

The defendant was remanded in custody until January 24. The case will be heard at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Workshop on pictures

A workshop on the importance of photos for local and family history is to be held at a Walsall community centre.

The Know Your Place Project is at Blakenall Community Centre, Blakenall Row on November 12 at 10am. Contact 01922 712069 for details.

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New crackdown on yobs

Police will be targeting problem streets and taking young children back home to their parents as part of a new crackdown on yobs behaviour across Walsall.

Officers will focus on areas in Bloxwich, Willenhall, Aldridge and Walsall for the next few weeks.

Paul Palfrey and Caldmore, officers will take charge of notorious

streets, target troublemakers and offer crime prevention advice.

In Pleck, lone children who are out on the streets will be taken home to their families or to a safe place as part of Operation Stay Safe.

Officers will be patrolling in Bloxwich, Willenhall and Darlaston, making sure shops are not selling fireworks to anyone and

that youths are not setting off fireworks. Superintendent Keith Fraser from Walsall Police said: "This time of year generally sees a rise in crimes such as burglary, vehicle crime and robbery."

"This increase is linked with the clocks going back."

Chief Inspector Sally Holmes added special constables will also be out in force as part of the crackdown.

Hopes high for college

Sponsors of the country's first University Technical College, being built in Walsall, said it would "reinvigorate the Black Country's engineering heritage".

Plans for a specialist engineering college for 14 to 19 year olds are well under way and it is hoped the college could open at the site of the doomed Sneyd Community School, Bloxwich, as early as September next year.

Walsall College is the lead sponsor of the UTC project, alongside co-sponsors Wolverhampton University.

Amarjit Basi, principal and chief executive of Walsall College, said the UTC was an exciting opportunity for pupils across the region.

He said the benefits of the UTC would also be felt by the wider community.

"Both sponsors are committed to working in partnership with other schools and colleges within the locality of the UTC so their students and staff may also benefit from what will be a regional centre of excellence," he added.

The UTC will take up to 480 pupils.

Pupils with a passion for engineering can select the UTC but will also study GCSEs in English, maths, science, IT and languages.

Awards for innovation

Projects created by health professionals will be battling it out in the finals of the West Midlands NHS Innovations Awards 2010.

Staff from NHS organisations across the region, including Sandwell, Walsall and Birmingham, are among 12 finalists in the running for a slice of a £10,000 prize. The winners will be announced on November 25.

Kearon defies odds and returns to family

A Walsall Man who was left fighting for his life after a street attack in the town has defied the odds to return home to his family.

Kearon McNicol underwent a five-hour brain operation and doctors had told his mother Caroline to prepare for the worst. But after an astonishing recovery, the 19-year-old is now back home with his family and friends in Blakenall.

He was given a warm welcome by his mother, step-father Andrew Cooper, girlfriend Karla Hanley, 17, brother Ryan, 13, and sister Mia, three.

His family said they were "over the moon" to have him back home.

Former Sheffield Academy pupil Kearon, who spent around two weeks in a coma, said: "I'm so pleased to be at home again. I was getting really bored in hospital and was desperate to get home. Lots of people have been popping in to see me and I had lots of visitors while I was in there."

"I've had a lot of support from people and it is nice to know they care."

Appointments

Kearon will have regular appointments at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital over the next few weeks but is expected to make a full recovery. He hopes to go to Walsall College next year to study public services, and one day plans to join the Army.

His mother Caroline, aged 36, said: "I'm so pleased he is going to be alright – these past few weeks have been such a nightmare. He is walking well although he is a little unbalanced but he will get there."

"He has done ever so well and even the doctors are amazed at how well he is doing."

"The surgeons and doctors were brilliant – they kept him alive."

Manchester United fan Kearon says he does not remember much about the attack.

Police were called to reports of a large fight in Ryel Street, Blakenall Heath, on October 9. Robert Bagnall, aged 24, of Wye Road, has been charged with grievous bodily harm with intent.

Pupils have also praised the project and say they are looking forward to moving in next year.

Mohammed Aadil, aged nine, said: "It looks fantastic so far."

Network for trustees

A new network for the trustees of charities and voluntary organisations working in the Walsall district is to hold its first meeting this month.

The Walsall Trustees Network has been created by Walsall Voluntary Action, which provides advice about grants and initiatives to the voluntary sector. It is designed to bring together trustees and management committee members to share information and discuss the key issues

affecting the voluntary sector. Walsall Voluntary Action's project support worker John Cotton said: "We've created Walsall Trustees Network to give help and support to the volunteers who give up their time and expertise to give leadership to our local voluntary organisations." The meeting will be on November 25 at the County Hotel, in Birmingham Road, Walsall, between 6pm and 8pm. To book a place, call 01922 619840.

Prison term for lorry part theft man

A thief who stole a metal part worth thousands of pounds from a Bloxwich building firm's tipper lorry has been jailed for six months.

Shaun Davis admitted theft of metal linked to the hydraulic arm of a seven-and-a-half-ton Mercedes vehicle at Walsall Magistrates Court. The 23-year-old of Stony Lane, Bloxwich, had targeted S'Clift Building Contractors on October 19 this year along with James Leonard.

The metal, worth £2,000, was recovered by police who were called to the business in Croxtalls Close, Leonard, of Kent Street, Coalpool, pleaded guilty to theft at a previous hearing. The 23-year-old did not appear before magistrates last week ahead of sentencing and a warrant without bail was issued.

Prosecutor Maggie Meakin told the court the theft values at £2,000 but had affected the whole system, which cost £13,000 to repair. The equipment has been out of action since.

The first hearing was told Davis was arrested on the spot and Leonard, who ran off and attempted to hide in a garden, was arrested shortly afterwards.

The stolen item from the lorry was recovered nearby. Miss Stephanie Brownlees, defending Leonard, told the court it had been a stupid offence for him to get involved in but he had wanted to help a friend out. She added it was not a professional attempt to steal machinery.

Mr Khalid Bashir, defending Davis, also told the hearing there was no professionalism about the job.

It was claimed Davis was not the ring leader. Magistrates agreed not to send the case to Wolverhampton Crown Court and sentenced Davis to 26 weeks in jail.

Poppies pies and pudding for RBL

Poppies will be served up with pies and puddings next week as a meal delivery firm supports the Royal British Legion.

A menu pack to commemorate the annual Poppy Appeal has been launched by frozen meals delivery service Wiltshire Farm Foods in Brickyard Road, Aldridge.

For each pack sold, the company will make a £1 donation to the 2010 Poppy Appeal. Included in the menu pack is minced beef and onion pie, shepherds pie, chicken a la king, beef and Dorset ale casserole, sausage hotpot, salmon and broccoli supreme and gammon in Cumberland sauce, as well as five desserts. A poppy will also be included.

Dave Pearson, a manager at the company, said: "We are extremely proud to be working with the Royal British Legion on such a worthwhile cause."

To order a pack for £25, call 01922 745522.

Copper theft case is adjourned again

A burglar who stole copper from empty homes in a Walsall street had his case adjourned again after pre-sentence reports due before the court were not completed.

James Anthony Barfield, aged 20, of Severn Road, Blakenall, admitted burglary in Harden Road, Leamore, on August 24 and October 5.

He admitted stealing copper piping and boilers at Walsall Magistrates Court last month.

He was due to be sentenced last week but reports were incomplete.

The case has now been adjourned until November 17 and Barfield was remanded in custody.

Arsonists strike at farm

Arsonists destroyed around seven tonnes of straw in Aldridge. Firefighters were called out to Lodge Farm in Bosty Lane after the fire started last week. Fire crews from Walsall and Wednesbury fought the blaze and were able to contain it from spreading to 30 tonnes of straw nearby.



Delighted to be home – Kearon with, back, stepdad Andrew Cooper, brother Ryan, girlfriend Karla Hanley, mother Caroline and little sister Mia.

People split on taxi bid

Resurrected plans to create a taxi base at a garage in Willenhall have divided the community. A scheme to change a store building into a base for three taxis in Bloxwich Road North, Short Heath, is being recommended for approval.

The plan prompted petitions and against. Two 94-name petitions have gone to Walsall Council from people saying there is a need for a base. People living near the proposed base at the Bloxwich Road North filling station fear noise, late night

disturbance and parking. A 42-name petition opposing the plan has also gone in.

Applicant, Mr J Singh, says the base would only operate until 9pm, it will not be a walk-in centre and the petrol station will continue to operate.

Willenhall North Councillor Ian Shires, who submitted the petition against plans on behalf of residents, said: "We thought that these plans would have been abandoned following the unsuccessful attempt earlier this year to establish a taxi base."

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thechronicle

Morris should die in jail – victim's family

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

The family of one of the Cannock Chase murder victims says Raymond Morris should die in jail and not be given the chance to appeal against his conviction.

Morris, now 81, was the prime suspect in the murders of five-year-old Diane Tift and six-year-old Margaret Reynolds.

Their bodies were found in a ditch in January 1966 – days after they disappeared. He is now challenging his conviction for the murder of seven-year-old Christine Darby from Walsall, who was also discovered at the beauty spot a year later.

He was never charged with killing the other two children.

Diane's brother, niece Vanessa Barrett, and sister-in-law said his appeal was stirring up terrible memories.

The schoolgirl was abducted as she walked back from her grandmother's house in Chapel Street, Bloxwich, on December 30, 1965.

Her brother Terrence, now aged 54, was the last family member to see her alive.

Today he said that he had felt guilty all his life that he could not save her.

Tragedy

The father-of-six said his family had been ripped apart by the tragedy, with his mother Irene still grieving for the violent loss of her daughter every day and his father "dying of a broken heart" in 1989.

Mr Tift said: "I thought it was my fault for most of my life. I still feel that way now. I could never give anybody an answer as to what happened."

"I was heartbroken over it afterwards because I never got to see my sister again."

"Raymond Morris should die in jail and be left there to rot."

"Life should mean life. We still miss Diane even though it's been over 40 years. We've missed out on her growing up and having a family of her own."

"Things haven't got easier to cope with over time for our family."

"I would like to have a say in this appeal case."

Morris, who was sentenced to life imprisonment when he was 39, was never charged with the murders of Diane and Margaret and their cases have remained on file ever since.

The former engineer from Green Lane, Walsall, has been in prison for 42 years.



Vanessa Barrett of Walsall with her daughter Elizabeth. Vanessa's auntie was murdered and found on Cannock Chase many years ago.



Murdered - Diane Tift.



Raymond Morris.

Horror of disappearance

I went home and told my mother.

"We had lived in Holmeadow Avenue just round the corner from Nan's and the park. You wouldn't think anyone could have disappeared that quickly so close to their own home."

"She was lovely, had blonde hair and a lovely smile and was very funny. That's how I remember her always smiling. She was a family favourite."

Mr Tift was nine at the time of the horror.

He added: "It is right when people say feelings are still very raw over what happened to Diane."

His wife Sandra, aged 55, who also grew up in the area said she recalled how everyone's homes and lofts were searched.

LETTERS

thechronicle

Arguments are an asset in campaign to leave the EU

Dear Sir,
David Clinton must be thanked profusely for being such a great asset to those of us who campaign against the anti-democratic and over-mighty EU.

In his letter to the Walsall Chronicle (Oct 28) David helpfully confirms all that is wrong with the EU, he is so blinded by his besotted desire to be governed by it that when he pointed out we only have a divided 9 per cent representation in the EU Parliament, he actually thinks this is good.

Any normal person would consider it very a low representation which leaves us without influence. He is under the illusion the EU is our largest trading

partner, but fails to see that it sells far more to us than we to it leaving us with a trading black hole that has to be fed by the profits we make from trade with the rest of the world.

On this matter he also thinks it is good that we lose the right to make our own deals and this privilege to be given to the EU, who may not conduct negotiations favourable to us – but to David this is wonderful news.

He thinks small countries cannot represent themselves, which will obviously come as a surprise to Norway and Switzerland which as two small European countries fortunate enough not to be in the EU are amongst its richest.

The best bit of all, which I have heard all those who love for the EU shows no bounds, was his confirmation of how much all those pro-EU fanatics like loathe our democracy and our right to govern ourselves.

On the matter of EU laws made by those none of us have any democratic control over, he stated: "Another plus I think for being in the EU." What better proof could there be about the anti-democratic nature of the EU and its misguided supporters – this is a perfect reason why we should quit the EU ASAP.

Derek Bennett,
Walsall UKIP,
Branch Chairman,
Walsall.

Diabetes help in hospital

Dear Sir,
Every week as many as two women are killed by a current or former partner and ten more commit suicide to escape domestic abuse.

Despite these shocking statistics, one in three local authorities still do not provide specialist domestic violence services.

The situation may get worse following the announcement of the comprehensive spending review in October.

Avon, the company for women,

and national domestic violence charity Refuge, are launching a countrywide media initiative to help every woman and child, no matter where they live, to have access to domestic violence services.

We would like to invite you and your readers to help us lobby government to ensure abused women and their children have access to local specialist domestic violence services. By adding your signature to our online petition, and asking others to do so too,

you will help us the safety and protection of women and children who are terrorised by abuse in their homes. The petition, which will close at the end of November, forms part of Avon and Refuge's joint Four Ways to Speak Out Against Domestic Violence Campaign www.fourwayspeospeakout.com. Please lend your support to this campaign.

Anna Segatti,
Group Vice President,
Avon Western Europe
and Middle East.

Give support to campaign to aid the victims of domestic violence

Being in the EU means we have given away our justice

Dear Sir
We have just witnessed another reason why we should get out of the EU, our judicial system was the envy of the world, now we have given that away.

The result of this we saw on television – a young man completely innocent – who wasn't even in the nightclub where the offence took place, but only the EU rules now apply so he has languished in appalling conditions in a Greek

jail for three years with no hope of a fair trial.

Even the men who originally gave evidence against him said they were beaten by the Greek police in to saying he had committed the crime, but he remains in custody with no hope of an appeal.

There are about 50 English people in jail who are innocent, the most notorious was a UK citizen who was in England when

the offence was committed in Italy.

But he would have still had to go to Italy to face charges.

Also to add insult to injury we are now going to pay the EU treble the contribution we now pay.

Again I say we must get out of the EU and take back control of England.

Mrs Bristow,
Willenhall.

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Get in touch if you were once in the sea cadets

Dear Sir,
On November 27 we held our social evening at the Victory Club New Invention, once again it was for a special occasion.

Firstly the Walsall Province of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. Handed a cheque for £3,000 to Mr Robert Cross who is the representative for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, also on the night the head of the Grand Lodge of England Brother Hayden Bennett ROH, from the Walsall Province with his wife attended the evening, he also has a charity this year which is Brain Tumour UK, at the moment stands at £13,000, this runs till the end of the year.

For more information about the work of IDDT or to receive your free copy of the passport phone IDDT on 01604 622837 or email: martin@iddtinternational.org

Martin Hirst,
Pr Manager,
IDDT.

Former Sea Cadets can get in touch by visiting www.seacadets.org, emailing at info@ms-sc.org or call: 020 7654 7000 or write to us at: I was a former Sea Cadet, MSSC, 202 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7JW

Do you have something to say? Then write to Walsall Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES or email walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk. Letters are published at the editor's discretion and may be edited. All letters and emails must include a full name, address and contact number.

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Cricket star Bell donates shirt



Acorns' Director of Care Emma Aspinall with, left, Chris Tremlett, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, and Alec Stewart

Student's £11,000 swindle

A student has been convicted of benefit fraud totalling £11,000 while living in Walsall.

The case against Michelle Patterson, aged 28, was proved in his absence after he failed to attend the hearing.

Mrs Kerry Munro, prosecuting on behalf of Walsall Council, told Walsall Magistrates Court the defendant was now believed to be studying in the Bristol area.

However, at the time of the claims for housing benefit, council tax and jobseekers allowance he was living at a property in Noose Crescent, Walsall, when he claimed and was overpaid a total of £10,842.

He was charged with failing to notify of a change of circumstances between September 2006 and 2010 when he was a student in receipt of a grant or loans.

The case was adjourned until November 15 for Patterson to attend.

England and Warwickshire cricket star Ian Bell presented a signed shirt for children when he toured Acorns Children's Hospice, on the eve of the team's departure for the Ashes tour of Australia.

Acorns' supporter Ian presented staff at Acorns in Birmingham with the shirt, which is to be proudly displayed near another signed shirt from Paula Radcliffe in the hospice activity area.

Head Nurse Lindsey Homer and Head of Fundraising Mike Tague took Ian on the tour, and children and staff gave him a warm send-off with their wishes for success.

Ian and England's cricket stars earlier met Acorns' Director of Care Emma

Aspinall at the Clydesdale Bank 40 End of Season Celebration Dinner, at Warwickshire Cricket Club in Edgbaston.

Warwickshire County Cricket Club has recently announced it has granted Ian Bell a benefit year in 2011 – as a reward for his 10 years' service to the team.

A schedule of events to celebrate this honour is being compiled – including a launch on April 8 2011 at The MacDonald's Burlington Hotel, Birmingham.

Ian will therefore be passing over a donation from his Benefit Year to help Acorns which cares for nearly 600 children. There is no charge to families so Acorns relies on donations for the majority of its income.

Pupils get timely lesson with capsule

A Walsall special school created and then buried a time capsule which they hope will be reopened in 50 years time.

Martin Griffiths, vocational instructor at Jane Lane School, Bentley said: "We wanted to find a fun and hands-on way of teaching our year six young people about the passage of time. A time capsule proved the ideal answer.

"The 13 pupils created the capsule from scratch. It was a team building exercise with lots of decision making involving the choice for the ideal materials for the capsule, through to the items selected for its content.

"Eventually, they made it from a length of plastic piping with a bung at each end and the content reflected recent events – including the BP oil spill and the volcanic ash clouds that caused so much flight chaos." Pupil Mitchell Adams, aged 11, said: "I really enjoyed the project because it was exciting to bury the capsule in the ground."

Mr Griffiths added, "I brought in one of the original brick-like mobile phones, the youngsters could hardly believe their eyes and found it hard to imagine a life without mobiles." Headteacher, Heather Lomas, added, we seize every opportunity to enhance the pupils' potential.



Pupils with their teachers, left, Jane Lavender, primary co-ordinator and specialism manager and teaching assistant, Fiorina Roberts.



Right, pupil, Mitchell Adams, aged 11, buries the time capsule.

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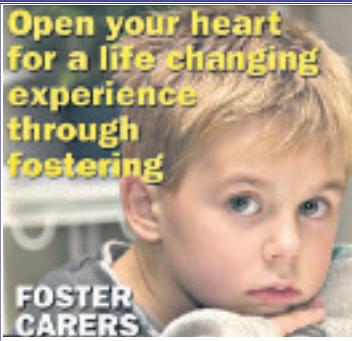
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thechronicle

Revised pub scheme has been thrashed out

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Campaigners have had their say on controversial plans to transform a pub in Pheasey into Walsall's biggest home.

Revised plans have gone to council planners concerning the now-empty Three Crowns pub in Sutton Road. Original plans for six luxury houses, a helipad and a lake were submitted a year ago but have been scaled down by the developer, businessman Pal Singh.

The latest scheme features the huge home being created as part of the pub building, along with four homes – themselves due to be worth £1 million each – built around it.

The latest application was due to be decided last week but a decision will now not be made until December, giving council planners more time to speak to concerned residents, who are worried about its proximity to green belt land.

Sutton Road resident David Baker said:

“The green belt land is for us all to protect, not

only for our enjoyment, but for future genera-

“Planning consent within a site of this importance is rarely granted. Only in the most exceptional circumstances would permission be given, and, clearly, every effort should be made to protect the site and the integrity of its status.”

Support

West Midlands MEP Mike Nattrass MEP is also against the scheme.

He said: “This is clearly not the right location for such a plan and I support residents in their calls for the green belt to be saved.”

Council Adrian Andrew, the borough's regeneration chief, said it would be a boost to Walsall.

He said: “The houses that would be built on two car parks either side of the pub would not deviate from the existing building line.

“We are talking about £1 million houses here and the development of a derelict pub. I think there is some scaremongering around the application and would urge anyone concerned to look at the plans.”

The Three Crowns closed more than three years ago. The building dates back to the 1930s and is owned by Mitchells & Butlers. Planning permission has already been granted to change the use of the building from a business to residential.

Billy's chronicles of borough

A Victorian tradesman who chronicled some of the history of Walsall is the source of a new book.

Billy Meikle used words, photography and paintings to capture the outlook of the borough, opening a “window on Walsall”.

He used water-colours to create an artistic view of the borough. In a new book by Billy Meikle's Window on Walsall there are twelve illustrated articles based on his own writings.

They were held in the Walsall Local History Centre archives and have been elaborated on by staff member and Walsall Chronicle columnist Stuart Williams.

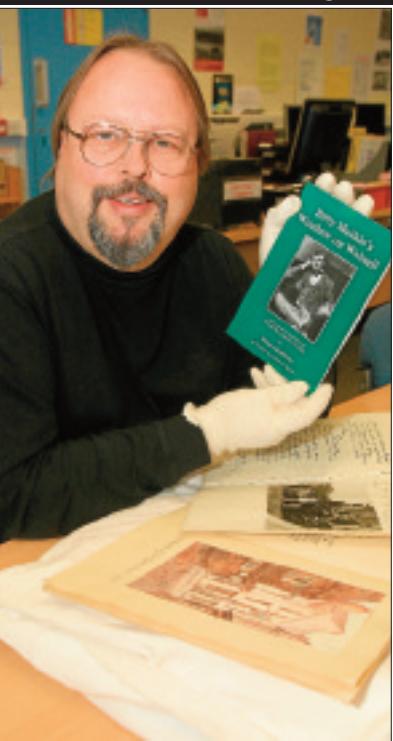
Ruth Vyse, head of Walsall Local History Centre said: “It is to people such as Billy Meikle that we owe our picture of what Walsall was like in times past.

“This book is an example of his work.

“It tells of Walsall's lost pubs, Madame

Angelo, the endurance walker, the town's theatres and the Bloxwich wife who wished that a pub would collapse on her husband and it did.”

The paperback version costs £5 and is available now from the history centre in Essex Street, Waterstones in Park Street and libraries.



Walsall Chronicle columnist Stuart Williams who has written the book *Billy Meikle's Window on Walsall*.

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100 extra trees will be removed from park

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More than 350 trees will be felled at Walsall Arboretum for health and safety reasons – 100 more than expected.

An online campaign has now been launched to stop the work, which will form part of the park's £7.9 million revamp.

The destruction has been called an "act of vandalism" that will destroy the habitat of thousands of birds and animals.

In the planning application to remove them, Laine Harbin from Walsall Council said the 368 trees will be removed because of health and safety reasons and to allow the transformation of the park to go ahead.

The aim of the overall tree works programme is to provide a balance of young and mature tree stock which can be enjoyed by both current and future visitors."

Housed

More than 4,000 fruit trees are to be planted in Walsall Arboretum Extension, a section of the park which housed the Grange Golf Course before it closed and is home to lots of wildlife.

The council hopes to harvest the fruits and distribute the juices to Walsall schools.

The masterplan for the park includes a new visitors' centre, and changing rooms for water sports. Refurbishments of the bandstand and boathouse are planned and all work is expected to be finished by 2013.

Work on a new skate park and multi-use sports area has begun at the park.

Councillor Anthony Harris, cabinet member for leisure, culture and environment, said today: "There are around 2,200 trees within the historic core of the park.

"The management of the trees will result in a significantly improved park for future generations to enjoy."

Indoor training roof fitted for builders

A roof has been installed inside a Darlaston warehouse but it's not a mistake if it's there to help a housing association to train its building staff in fitting solar energy panels to cut tenants fuel bills.

The Accord Group looks after 11,000 homes across the West Midlands.

A huge timber roof has been erected at Innovation Works at the former Rubery Owen offices in Booth Street, and will be used to teach contractors how to fit the panels.

Once trained the workers based with roof contractor Mears will install the green technology at Accord's existing homes in Birmingham and the Black Country to help tenants save money.

The scheme is part of a new qualification developed by Walsall College for the housing group's award-winning Fit for the Future campaign.

Walsall Council cabinet member for regeneration Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "With the Government looking set to invest in supporting low carbon projects, it's now more important than ever for the region to step up and shape itself as the economic centre of green technology."

The Fit for the Future project is funded by Advantage West Midlands and managed by the housing association.



Top, left, Richard Martin and James Crabtree, bottom left, Andy Carter, Nigel Clayton, of Walsall College and Gary Simmons, seen with the solar energy panels.

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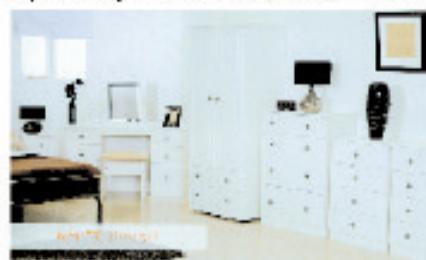
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People planning to make changes

Planning applications which have been received by Walsall Council recently include: Change of use to car park for Lyndon House Hotel residents. Development adjacent to public footpath (WAL71) at the land at the junction of **Town Hill** and **Upper Rushall Street**, Walsall.

Lawful existing use certificate: livery use, Equestrian centre, at **Aldridge Court Farm, Little Aston Road**, Aldridge.

Kitchen and bedroom extensions, guest rooms in roof and extensions to porch and garage at **54, Lodge Road, Walsall**.

Two-storey side extension at **Sunnyside, Victoria Road, Darlaston**. Conservatory to rear of **10, St Davids Place, Bloxwich**. Fell one sycamore and one beech at **6, Campbell Close, Walsall**.

Construction of detached dwelling at land between **2 and 4, Wells Avenue**,

Darlaston. Single-storey rear extension and patio decking area at **14, Calthorpe Close, Walsall**. Single-storey rear extension with pitched roof at **18, Villiers Street, Walsall**. Proposed double garage at **107 Broadway North, Walsall**.

Alterations to front elevation to include cladding over existing brick structure and installation of new windows and creation of 12 sq m of additional floor space at first-floor level at **Surespan Ltd, Leamore Industrial Estate, Leamore Close, Walsall**. Conservatory to rear of **22 Lawrence Walk, Great Barr**.

Fell one sycamore tree or crown reduce by 20 per cent at **29, St Mary's Way, Aldridge**. Single-storey rear extension, front boundary wall and gates. Dropped kerb to provide vehicle access **17, Longwood Lane, Walsall**.

Kitchen extension and conversion of garage to store and shower room and replacement of flat roof with pitched roof at first floor at **38, Somerset Road, Walsall**.

Two-storey side extension forming new kitchen/family room, and forming fifth bedroom with en-suite. Extending existing bedroom at **38, Bluebell Road, Walsall Wood**.

Conservatory to the rear of **99, Woden Road West, Wednesbury**.

Single and two-storey extensions at **The Apostolic Church (Church on the Corner), 1, King Charles Avenue, Bentley**. Rear conservatory and pitched roof over existing two-storey rear extension at **89, Salters Road, Walsall Wood**.

Two poplars in land adjacent to the garage – reduce by 50 per cent at **303, Lichfield Road, Walsall**.

Kitchen extension and conversion of

Children harvest good deed



Salvation Army captain Susan Stubbins collects food with, left, Hira Noor Karim, aged three, Annabelle Whitelaw and Kallum Laban, both aged two.

Caring children have collected food for needy people in Walsall as part of their harvest festival celebrations.

Youngsters from the Little Professors Nursery in Walsall College have been collecting the items for the past few weeks.

They have also been learning about the way harvest festivals are acknowledged around the world.

Last week they presented their collection to the the Salvation Army, which will now distribute the food to

vulnerable people in the borough.

Nursery manager Gemma Earp said the project had been a great success. She said: "The children have had wonderful time learning about harvest festivals from around the world and were excited to give our harvest baskets to the people from the Salvation Army.

"We are really pleased with the collection that we received, and are glad to be helping people in our community."

Officers in Chuckery responded following calls from the community over those believed to be playing truant.

PC Stephen Fowkes, from the Chuckery policing team, said: "We will be patrolling on a regular basis."

Pupil patrols promised

Police have vowed to continue regular patrols of Walsall streets to ensure children are not playing truant.

They will work with truancy officers in the crackdown. An operation was carried out in Chuckery last month after complaints from residents about youngsters wandering the streets in school time.

It saw six young people stopped and

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Monitoring to stay at fish thefts spot

A beauty spot which was targeted by thieves stealing hordes of fish in Moxley will continue to be monitored to stop further crimes.

Walsall Council said there have been no further reports of carp, tench and roach being snatched from Moorcroft Wood Local Nature Reserve.

Up to 20 people were seen congregating at the spot off Hawkwood Drive over the summer with stock levels of fish in the pool plummeting.

The council has reported the problems to the Environment Agency who will carry out additional patrols to ensure no more thefts are carried out. Anyone who sees fish thefts are urged to contact the Environment Agency.

Leisure chief, councillor Anthony Harris said: "The pool at Moorcroft Wood Local Nature Reserve was being used by unauthorised people who did not have an Environment Agency rod licence.

I would urge anyone who notices anything suspicious to call the EA's free hotline on 0800 80 70 60.



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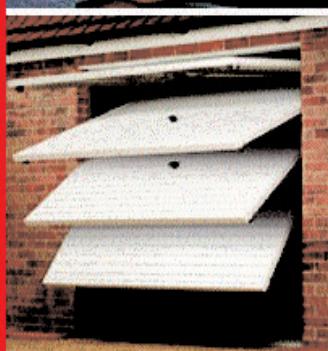
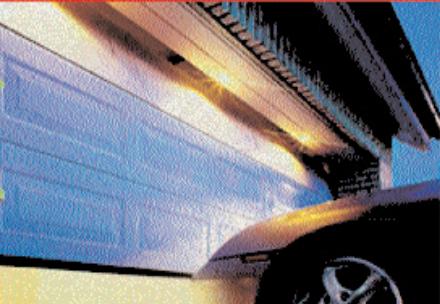
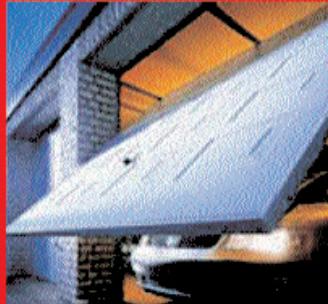
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Relief as High Street works end

Work on Bloxwich High Street has finally been completed after months of complaints from long-suffering traders and motorists.

The red route scheme has been ongoing since the summer with the final landmark stages of the project finished in the last couple of weeks.

Contractors will remain in the area to ensure any minor problems are resolved – but Walsall Council says it is in essence completed. Bosses add extra drainage and block paving work has also been carried out.

This work had not been originally planned. During a peak period of the £3 million scheme a one-way system was in

place for six weeks throughout August – leading to diversions.

Work has included changing locations of bus stops and applying single or double red lines in certain areas of the road.

Walsall transport chief, Councillor Tom Ansell, said: "We're really pleased that improvements to Bloxwich High Street have been completed.

"There have been a wide range of changes to the area and it's allowed us to carry out additional improvements such as drainage work and block paving," he added.

"There will be some continued presence in the town as contractors continue to iron out some last-minute minor problems but

by and large the scheme is now complete."

Traders said they lost customers while the one-way system was in place from the end of July.

The road reopened again in both directions in September with the rest of the project including new signals then completed. Businesses have questioned the necessity of the work along the route.

Chris Bayne, director at Bloxwich Computer Centre, said: "I didn't think it was that bad before and needed all this money spent on it. All it has managed to do is create a negative impact on the businesses." The scheme included a £10,000 project to expand the car park at Samuel Street."

Boss sold food out of hours

A takeaway boss was twice caught serving food late at night without the necessary permission.

Joyal Islam, of the Hot Chilli takeaway, Bloxwich Road, Walsall, was serving after 11pm.

He has applied for a licence to continue serving food until 11.30pm Sunday to Thursday, and until 12.30am on Fridays and Saturdays.

In a report to go to the council's licensing sub-committee on November 15, Lorraine Boothman, senior principal trading standards officer for Walsall Council, said officers had visited the shop to inform Mr Islam that he should close at 11pm. But on two other occasions, officials were served food at 11.20pm.

Ms Boothman said in the report: "Mr Islam has demonstrated he shows little regard for the requirements of the legislation. Therefore we would say that he is not a suitable person to hold a licence."

Playgroup's numbers are soaring

A playgroup which was last year on the brink of closure due to falling pupil figures has seen its numbers soar again, bosses said today.

The St Thomas Church playgroup, in Aldridge, now has around 35 children on its books.

It recently held an open day with Leighswood Children's Centre, also in Aldridge, for people to find out more about what it offers.

Musicians, balloon sculpting and face painting were all on offer.

Nursery manager Rachel Taylor said: "The nursery has been running for years but last year it wasn't doing very well and we were even looking at having to close.

"Unfortunately, another Aldridge playgroup did close. We have seen our numbers go back again and we're doing really well.

The playgroup is based at St Thomas' Church, St Thomas' Close.



Rachel Taylor of St Thomas Church Playgroup with eight-year-old Josh Hunt and his sister Aimee Hunt, six, and Ben Coleman, four.

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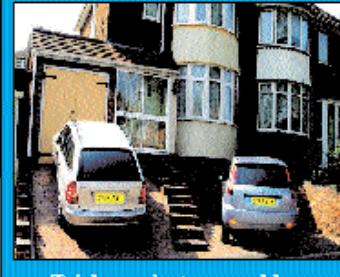


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Projects share in handout

Projects to improve theatre and play facilities for Walsall children are among schemes to get a slice of £500,000 of lottery funding.

Four schools and a project for adults with learning difficulties receive help from The Big Lottery Fund.

St Michael's CE Primary, Maple Road, Pelsall, was awarded £10,000 towards the cost of a new outdoor play area to improve play facilities for pupils. Head Ron Hutchinson said it will be added to £15,000 from landfill tax trust Istock Cory and a further £10,000 from a bequest.

She said: "We are more than ecstatic with this award. We are hoping to develop the outdoor area for playing and recreation for the children."

Other schools which were successful in attracting grants were Pelsall Village School, Old Town Lane, which was awarded £9,251 towards a new stage for the school's end of term and Christmas plays.

Busill Jones Primary, Ashley Road, Bloxwich, got £10,000; New Invention Junior School, Cannock Road, Willenhall, £9,974.

Walsall Housing Regeneration Association based in King Street, Darlaston, attracted £10,000 towards new computers for its adult learning scheme.

John Taylor, head of the West Midlands for the Big Lottery Fund, said: "I am delighted to see Big grants making such a difference to the lives of people."



thechronicle

snap happy

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE SNAP AT WWW.YOURCHRONICLE.COM.

This is the winner of the Snap Happy competition for October which was taken in by Mr Martin Shaun Jay. The picture is a close up of a hoverfly collecting nectar from a flower.

If you have snaps waiting to see the light of day, no matter how old or recent they are, as long as they are good quality and sharp we want to share them with everyone in the Chronicle region and the world beyond.

If they are of life in the Midlands, your family or the past we want to show them on our website.

Over the month Chronicle readers and web visitors will vote for their favourite picture and as a prize we will frame it free for the winner to hang on their wall.

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- Unibic Golden Bon Bon Fruit Jellies, 160g
- Soletti Pretzel Sticks, 80g
- Calypso Golden Bon Bon Fruit Jellies, 160g
- Tasty 10 pkt English Breakfast Tea
- Vittoria Espresso Coffee, 50g

North American Hampers

- (Excludes Alaska and Hawaii)
- USA Food - £47.75
- Canadian Food - £47.75
- Weston's Traditional Fruit Cake, 600g
- Rademaker Chocolate Mint sticks, 75g
- Royal Edinburgh Shortbread Fingers, 125g
- Borges Green Olives with Pimento, 125ml
- Carr's Sesame Water Crackers, 125g
- Walkers Strawberry & Cream Biscuits, 150g
- Twinings English Breakfast Tea (20s)

USA Luxury - £53.75

Canadian Luxury - £53.75

- Weston's Traditional Fruit Cake, 600g
- Royal Edinburgh Shortbread Fingers, 125g
- Jacobson's Bakery Tin of Biscuits, 150g
- Robertson's Scotch & Orange Marmalade, 250ml
- M'Lard Smoked Oysters, 85g
- Baxters Chicken & Vegetable Soup, 540ml
- Borges Green Olives with Pimento, 125ml
- Carr's Sesame Water Crackers, 125g
- Leaf Licorice Allsorts Bag, 140g
- Baxters Spiced Fruit Chutney, 250g
- Rademaker Chocolate Mint sticks, 75g

Packing and delivery included

Should a listed item become unavailable, a substitution of equal or greater value will be made

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Hamper Offer	Separate forms are required for each recipient - please attach together		
Star Extra	Send the hamper(s) as indicated in the boxes above, which totals £ _____		
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Queen Street	Please include New Year Bubbly(s) @ £18.00 each		
Wolverhampton WV1 1ES	I enclose total remittance for £ _____		
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Homeserve boss adds voice to training call

The chief executive of one of the biggest private employers in the region has joined top business leaders from throughout the UK to voice their nationwide support for apprenticeships.

Richard Harpin, boss of Walsall's HomeServe, was one of more than 20 people who put their names to an open letter which included Mark Clare, group chief executive of housebuilder Barratt Developments, British Gas managing director Phil Bentley and BT group human resources director Alex Wilson.

The letter says: "Rarely does the entire business community

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

come together passionately over one specific topic. Apprenticeships are an exception.

"We all, as leaders in business, support apprenticeships, and 85,000 of us have made a personal commitment to them - by employing apprentices in our own companies.

"The spending review recently announced funding for an extra 75,000 apprenticeship places and we have joined forces to urge other employers to consider how apprenticeships could help their businesses.

Progress

"With 200 types of apprenticeship available at three different levels, they are an excellent way to help staff progress while building their essential skills.

"And government contributes towards training costs. We know that apprenticeships provide people with enhanced employment opportunities, and are a great way to learn.

"Supporting the growth of this programme will build a great legacy and ensure that we all support the business leaders of tomorrow. Mr Harpin - whose HomeServe business employs around 1,600 people at its headquarters in Green Lane, Walsall, and is looking to create hundreds more new jobs - has revealed that over the next three years his company will be investing £1 million in apprenticeship schemes.

He said that 20 per cent of the workforce would be coming from apprenticeships by 2013.

A member of the Apprentice Ambassador Network, he is taking part in a West Midlands-wide campaign to drive home the benefits of apprenticeships to other leading organisations in the region.

This included an event where HomeServe and Cadbury hosted a meeting on apprenticeships at the chocolate maker's headquarters in Bournville, Birmingham.

"I am a great believer in running effective, long term apprenticeship schemes which have benefits not only for HomeServe but businesses across the country," Mr Harpin said.

"As we know from working with the National Apprenticeship Service, apprenticeships increase company productivity and competitiveness and reduce staff turnover," he added.

Another pub is lost to town as building bulldozed

A derelict Walsall pub has been pulled down due to its dangerous condition.

The Forge Hammer in Rollingmill Street has been razed to the ground after vandal and arson attacks since it closed four years ago.

Birmingham-based Gora Developments still does not have firm plans for the site's future but said the demolition was necessary because of the building's poor state. Its interior had been stripped and water was getting in.

The site was expected to be transformed into shops under fresh plans to bring it back to life and in April this year Walsall Council granted a certificate of lawful possession for pub use or development.

Raj Kumar, of Gora Developments, said: "We obtained the change of use, but we were always going to demolish it because the structure was dangerous and the site looked unsightly.

"It had been heavily vandalised. Inside had been stripped and the lead flashing stolen which allowed water to get in. It

was a mess. We observed ourselves it was dangerous and we didn't wait the trespassing to continue."

The pub at the corner of Brineham Street closed during the long-running ring road project which included Pleck Road and never reopened.

It was among 12 pubs bought by Gora from pub chain Punch Taverns when the Forge Hammer was a running business.

Mr Kumar said the pub which was popular with workers from nearby businesses also fell victim to the smoking ban and cheap supermarket drinks.

Gora Developments has also held talks with unidentified community groups over the future of another vacant pub, The Tannery, after plans to demolish it and replace it with homes stalled.

"The discussions are in the very early stages," he added.

The Forge Hammer featured on a list compiled by Walsall Campaign for Real Ale, highlighting the pub as one of the many lost to the town.

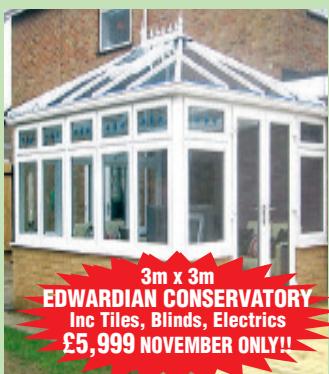
A number of pubs in Walsall are being transformed into retail units.



All that's left of the Forge Hammer.


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No suitable staff keeps cafe shut

A new cafe at a £1.2 million library in Walsall is to remain shut for the foreseeable future because no one has been found to run it. Potential caterers were invited to register their interest in taking on the cafe bar, one of the main features of the new Bloxwich Library.

Walsall Council said there were initially 20 interested parties, but officers have been unable to select a suitable applicant.

The library in Elmore Row was unveiled in September after a nine-month transformation, during which temporary facilities for people wanting to borrow books were provided. Chris Cordes, Walsall Libraries' strategic manager, said: "Despite us

issuing more than 20 application packs, unfortunately no suitable applications were received so we'll be reviewing the process. We believe the cafe is a unique opportunity within one of Walsall's busiest libraries."

The refurbishment is the result of a grant from the Big Lottery Communities Fund. It was awarded to transform the rundown building in July 2008 and work started last November.

The new look library provides exhibition, display and performance areas, meeting rooms and a children's reading garden. Councillors are currently assessing a shake-up of leisure services across

Walsall. The plans include rebranding the borough's libraries which would see all 16 called Library, Learning and Information Centres.

Options such as extending opening hours to evenings and weekends, bringing in volunteers and offering more council services inside have been suggested.

Changes to the mobile service could also be made, including fewer stops but longer stays and more computers on board.

The recommendations were put together by a council working group to explore leisure services and the report will now go before the decision-making cabinet.

£7m has
helped
heating

More than £7 million has been spent helping Walsall residents to heat their homes over the past 10 years.

Almost 6,000 households in Walsall North have been given help through the Warm Front grant.

A total of 2,457 households have received a heating measure while 3,395 have been helped with insulation from June 2000 to September 2010.

The total value of work in the constituency was £7,037,357.

Walsall North MP David Winnick said: "The Warm Front grant is available to those who are in receipt of various benefits, and I am pleased that households which wouldn't otherwise have been able to afford adequate heating or insulation measures now have them in their homes in my constituency."

For information on the grant, call 0191 247 3800.

Andrew looking forward to retirement

After decades of commitment to Willenhall Musical Society, Alan Pooler should be looking forward to a restful retirement.

But the 70-year-old musical director, who will hang up his conductor's baton after his last concert in December, has plenty to keep him busy.

He is also director of Albrighton Musical Company, a member of Willenhall Operatic Society.

Andrew has two children and six grandchildren to spend time with.

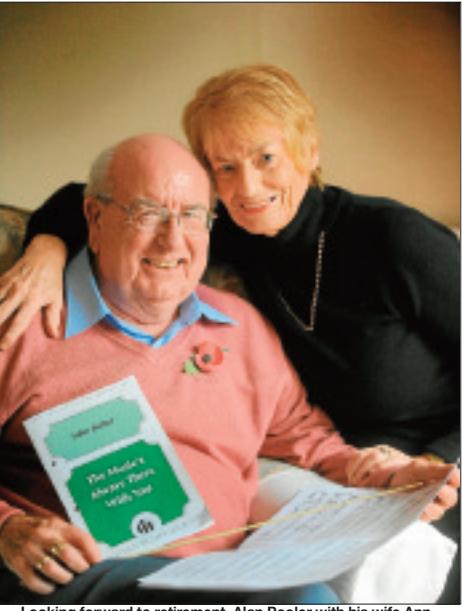
Mr Pooler, who lives with his wife, Ann, 69, in Church Road, Albrighton, looks back at his time with the 42-strong choir he directs as an "exciting experience" but he said: "It's time for them to see how someone else can take them to another level and change of style. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time there, they are a terrific bunch of people."

He got into music when he was about six, as singing was a way of coping with asthma. But his career took a different direction. He was a PE teacher, and then he helped prisoners improve their English.

He joined Willenhall Musical Society 21 years ago and started annual charity concerts in 1993.

The society has raised money for Walsall Manor Hospital, New

Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, Childline and Acorns Childrens Hospice among others.



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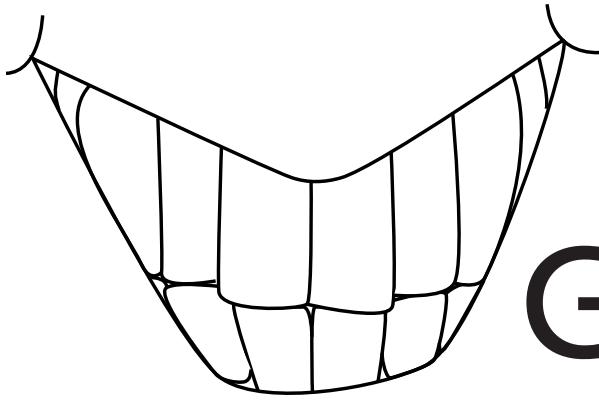
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If you are not exempt from charges, you should pay one of the following charges for each course of treatment you receive:

The charge you pay depends on the treatment you need to keep your mouth, teeth and gums healthy. You will only ever be asked to pay one charge for each complete course of treatment, even if you need to visit your dentist more than once to finish it - **either Band 1, Band 2 or Band 3.**

Band 1 course of treatment - £16.50

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Band 2 course of treatment - £45.60

Everything listed in Band 1 above, plus any further treatment such as fillings, root canal work or removal of one or more of your teeth.

Band 3 course of treatment - £198.00

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Police to visit every scrapyard

Police in Walsall are to visit every scrapyard in the borough as part of a major crackdown on rising metal thefts.

Officers will be checking to see if stolen metal is being sold and reminding dealers of their duty to log everything they handle.

The borough has been a hotspot for metal thefts over the past few weeks.

Crimes have included £25,000 of copper stolen from a Brownhills firm, £1,000 of brass from a Walsall saddlery and more than 30 manhole covers taken from streets in Willenhall, Darlaston and Moxley.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Joanne Hunt said officers will check if

stolen metal is being sold and remind dealers of their responsibility to log all metal as part of Operation Steel - a force-wide initiative relaunched in September to combat rising metal thefts.

Three men, aged 18, 19 and 19, were arrested on suspicion of burglary after metal piping was found at an address.

They have been bailed pending further inquiries. Also recently, £25,000 of copper was taken from PR Metals Ltd, Brownhills, and £1,000 of scrap brass castings from Abbey Saddlery, Walsall.

There have been 900 metal thefts in the Black Country in three months.

There were 211 in Walsall, 321 in

Sandwell and 218 in Wolverhampton. In Dudley over a six-week period there were 156 metal thefts. Police say people should secure wheelie bins as thieves increasingly use them to transport metal.

Other advice includes ensuring all garages, sheds and gates are locked; pruning trees and shrubs that may help thieves climb on to roofs; and using anti-vandal paint and warning notices.

Last month taxpayers faced a £15,000 bill after 31 manhole covers were taken in Moxley, Darlaston and Willenhall.

Information to police on 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Cutters used in bike theft



Image of suspect.

Walsall Police have released a CCTV image of a youth who threatened a lad with bolt cutters before stealing his bike.

The incident took place at 4.35pm on October 7, as the victim, a 16 year old local lad, was in High Street, Pelsall.

He was approached by the thief, who was white, aged 15-16, 5ft 6ins, with short blond/brown hair and wearing a dark blue top, dark tracksuit bottoms and white trainers. He threatened the victim with bolt cutters, before stealing his white and grey mountain bike valued at £300.

If anyone recognises him they should call Walsall CID on 0345 113 5000.

Hair net celebrity David gives makeover



David James from Walsall Wood, who has become something of a web celebrity, with Nicola Sears, sporting a new look. Inset shows how she looked before.

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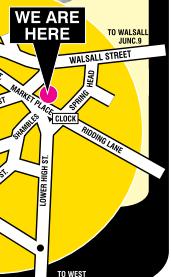
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snappers claim to frame



A swan stretches its wings.

This week's pictures come from Mark Schlicht of Bloxwich who has been out and about with his camera capturing some of the wildlife he found inhabiting Chasewater.



One of the many swans coming into land.



One of the empty structures at Chasewater.



One of the many geese which live around the water is gliding down.

Snaps of life in the borough

Are you a snazzy snapper, a lord of the lens or diva of the digital print? Think you can do better than these pictures, if you can why not share your snaps of the borough?

There is no limit on the age or the subject all we ask is that they be as sharp and clear as possible and must be of reasonable quality for publication and of course feature some area or aspect of Walsall and its life.

Send them in with your name, address and contact number and a brief description of what the picture shows.

Also we would like to hear about any interesting tales or stories attached to the photograph. Send them in either as a hard copy or electronically and we will do the rest. So get those cameras snapping, dig out those dusty old albums and send them to: Snappers Claim to Frame, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES or email them to walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk.



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Donna's Vision is changing

Women's lives

When Donna Hubbard developed her unique *Resisted Tension* workout which enabled her to lose some four and a half stones, she never dreamt that just a few years later her workout would go on to help more than 200,000 women to achieve incredible figure improvement.

In less than six months, Donna achieved her ideal figure and realised that her workout could help other women too. She opened her first Gymophobics in 2003 and in just seven years Gymophobics has expanded into some 35 towns and cities. The latest to open is in Digbeth in the heart of Walsall's Market area. Donna herself is managing the Walsall facility with the help of a dedicated team and already some 250 ladies are seeing amazing benefits.

Gymophobics

Donna explains: "Gymophobics is designed to help women of all ages who might feel intimidated in a conventional Gym. Age is no barrier as we have girls from as young as 14 to ladies in their 70s and all do equally well. My *Resisted Tension* workout is totally different from other Gyms. There are no weight machines, treadmills or aerobics to cope with! My workout is based on a unique combination of isotonic and isometric exercise and is so different that it has been awarded a Trade Mark, the only workout in the UK to achieve this! Our 'air' machines are a joy to use. Women love them as they are smooth on the joints and so easy to use. And they love

the fact that it takes just 30 minutes!"

"Each Gymophobics facility is designed to provide a beautiful, friendly and relaxed environment that any woman will feel comfortable in. Unlike most conventional Gyms we treat each member like a VIP. When they start we spend up to an hour designing a personal programme based on their goals and this is updated every few weeks. Our staff work closely with each member on every visit to ensure that the programme is working."

Slimmers

"Most of our slimmers lose a dress size in the first few weeks and whether they need inches on or inches off, we work with them to achieve the perfect measurements for their height and bone structure. It is fair to say that most of our members are not into exercise when they come to us initially. Most have low levels of fitness and are surprised by how easy they find the workout. Within a few weeks however they have more energy, they sleep better and they look younger!"

In addition to the 30 minute workout, Walsall Gymophobics also provides an Intensive Inch Loss Treatment Clinic which offers Spa treatments such as Body Wraps, Auto Massage and Faradism. These treatments can boost inch loss significantly and are available to both members and non members.

Donna's message is this: "Don't give up on your figure. At Gymophobics we will gently restore the figure you deserve without the need for the surgeon's knife! Whatever your goals, we can help. Our programme will help

you get your eating back on track and lift depression. It will tighten, tone and shape your body in all the right places. Start now and find out how easily you can change your shape and change your life!"

Gymophobics costs a lot less than you might think. Courses start at just £10 per month (weekends) and £19.99 (off peak). Unlimited use costs no more than £29 per month.



Donna Hubbard - Gymophobics Founder
Donna lost more than 4 stones herself using her unique Resisted tension workout

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Lindsey Willows member no 94865
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"My reality check came when out shopping for clothes. I found I was trying on size 16's as well as size 14's. I was very unhappy with my expanding figure and realised something had to change. My mum recommended Safford Gymophobics. It fitted in perfectly with my lifestyle...as a single mother I could easily fit in their unique 30 minute workout before the school pick-up. The atmosphere is very welcoming with friendly and supportive instructors who worked out my own personal programme and provide regular reassessments. By attending the gym 3 times a week, combined with a healthy calorie controlled diet, I am now a comfortable, toned size 10... Thank you Gymophobics"

Wow! Sarah shed 5 stones at Gymophobics and has maintained a lovely figure for more than four years. Now I am 9 stones 4 pounds and friends don't recognise me! Gymophobics has helped me change my life for the better

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the pulse

And whatever next Miss Goldfrapp?

OVER 10 years and five albums the genre-mashing Goldfrapp, the duo featuring corkscrew-haired singer Alison Goldfrapp and bearded muso Will Gregory, have gone from the icy operatic mood music of Mercury Prize-nominated debut *Felt Mountain* to the joyous disco pop of this year's *Head First* album.

Coming to Birmingham's O2 Academy on Sunday (14) with their full band as part of a nine-date UK tour, fans will be looking for hints at the next genre to be revamped by Goldfrapp or the latest image to be adopted by the 44-year-old chameleon.

songstress from Hampshire. In the past she has performed dressed as a futuristic air hostess, or in a flowing gown, or ABBA style jump suit, demonstrating a David Bowie-like flair for reinvention.

Her retro leaning blend of disco and glam rock, with hints of classic FM rock on the new album, has yielded a host of hit singles, including *Ooh La La*, *Number One*, *Ride A White Horse*, *Caravan Girl*, *Rocket* and *Alive*. Recently the duo have been working with A-list diva Christina Aguilera.

Fans will be going into the Birmingham venue eagerly anticipating what the glamorous and unpredictable Miss Goldfrapp will do next.

Model Momsen Taylor made to light up Wulfrun

RISING American rock stars The Pretty Reckless, fronted by teenage movie actress and model Taylor Momsen, make their first visit to the Black Country for a gig at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on Wednesday, December 15.

In 2000, the now 17-year-old, Momsen played little Cindy Lou Who opposite Jim Carrey as The Grinch and nearly pipped Miley Cyrus to become Disney's Hannah Montana. However, going to a White Stripes gig changed her musical taste and she now



cites Led Zeppelin, Nirvana and Oasis as her major musical influences, she certainly has a rawer rock voice than her Disney pop girl contemporaries.

She was recently in cult TV show *Gossip Girl* and Taylor was also the face of fashion chain New Look for their spring/summer 2010 collection.

She and her New York based band got an enthusiastic welcome at the V Festival in August, the time their debut album *Light Me Up* was released.



Fans will be heading for Birmingham eagerly anticipating what the glamorous and unpredictable Miss Goldfrapp will do next

Check out the latest CDs
- page 38

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE
ENTERTAINMENT
GUIDE AND WEEK'S
TV VIEWING



Cinema
preview on
page 38



Check out theatre line-up - page 33

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Jarrod (Eric Balfour) and Elaine (Scottie Thompson) make a run for it

Fight for survival in alien onslaught

CINEMA

AFTER a late night party, a group of friends in Los Angeles are awakened in the dead of the night by an eerie light beaming through the window.

Like moths to a flame, the light source is drawing people outside before they suddenly vanish into thin air. That's the set up for apocalyptic new science fiction thriller *Skyline*, which opens at cinemas tomorrow (Fri), a special effects bonanza blending elements of *Cloverfield*, *The Mist*, *War of the Worlds*, *Independence Day* and *Close Encounters*.

The friends soon find themselves in a fight for survival as the world unravels around them, a terrifying alien onslaught.

Eric Balfour (from 24) stars alongside David Zayas (*Dexter*), with Donald Faison (*Scrubs*), Brittany Daniel (*Sweet Valley High*) and Neil Hopkins (*Lost*). *Skyline* is directed by brothers Colin Strause and Greg Strause, written by Liam O'Donnell and Joshua Cordes.



In the film strange lights descend on the city of Los Angeles

DISNEY SPECIAL

Still magic after all these years

Disney On Ice 100 Years of Magic, NIA

It is 108 years since Walt Disney was born and next week it will be 72 years since Mickey Mouse made his movie debut... so I can only assume that the 100 Years of Magic is part of a decade-long celebration of the studio's movie magic. Whatever the theme, the latest Disney ice spectacular does live up to the hyperbole - it is a visual treat full of colourful costumed characters and featuring thrilling skating.

Mickey and Minnie Mouse, with some help from the accident-prone Goofy, introduce a cavalcade of Disney songs and moments. It begins in eye-catching style with the Genie from Aladdin duplicating himself into a fast skating chorus line of 20 blue genies. Then a *Finding Nemo* segment brings back some of the surreal fish costumes, including a menacingly toothy Bruce the Shark, that delighted Disney ice show regulars last year.

The castle set came into its own for a *Beauty and the Beast* excerpt which became a tribute to the Disney princesses as Belle and her Prince were joined on the ice by Cinderella and Prince Charming, Princess Jasmine and Aladdin, Ariel and Prince Eric, Pocahontas and John Smith, and finally Snow White and her Prince for a series of superbly danced duets.

A big cheer greeted the arrival of Woody, Jessie and Buzz Lightyear, joined by the toy soldiers of *Toy Story* before the first half ended in dazzling style with a tribute to a favourite Disney theme parks institution it's *A Small World*.

The anarchic *Stitch* sadly made an all-too-brief appearance after the interval but then the audience were treated to a tribute to old school classic *Pinocchio*, probably the most magical portion of the show when Jiminy Cricket croons *When You Wish Upon A Star* as the fairy descends from her star to turn the puppet into an 'almost real' boy. After being led astray, *Pinocchio* made amends by rescuing his father from the belly of the giant whale *Monstro*.

The whale was good but the dragon was better in the fast-paced potted version of *Mulan*, in which snow fell onto the tank as *Mulan*'s Chinese troops battled the Huns. *The Incredibles* showed their super powers for the most popular part of the show, the *Lion King* with Hank and Matata and the gorgeously costumed Simba and Nala dancing to *Can You Feel The Love Tonight*?

You could certainly feel the love for the whole Disney experience as the huge cast returned for a big firework finale. Disney On Ice continues to celebrate the magic at the NIA to Sunday, November 14.

LEON BURAKOWSKI



Mickey and Minnie Mouse introduced a cavalcade of favourite Disney moments

by Leon Burakowski

CD REVIEWS

Seasons Of My Soul: Rumer

What a very special voice. Rumer (seen right) has been compared to Karen Carpenter and Laura Nyro and her soft, yet sturdy, tones deserve to be mentioned in such legendary company.

Slow, the third and finest song on this debut album, is the perfect showcase. It is gorgeous and will be a huge hit. This is a warm album that feels as though it has been written from experience rather than by committee. It is an engaging set of songs from the 31-year-old singer/songwriter (real name Sarah Joyce, her stage name is a tribute to children's author Rumer Godden).

Whilst none quite match the wonderful Slow, which featured on an EP which introduced this singer who comes from Pakistan by way of the New Forest, they deserve time to work their way under the skin - particularly the laid-back dreamy Come To Me High, the spine-tingling On My Way Home and the Norah Jones-ish Aretha.

Rumer is to appear in concert at Birmingham's Glee Club on December 13. Given the release of this album, her appearances with Jools Holland and on Elton John's Electric Prom... it's likely to be the hottest ticket in town this festive season.



The Wanted: The Wanted

Watch out JLS this five-piece (Jay, Nathan, Tom, Siva and Max) are impressive new kids on the block. The Wanted's debut album opens with a cracking pop song, All Time Low, which bounces off the album and into your brain, where it will stay.

Heart Vacancy is more of a standard ballad with its harmonies and boys together chorus and High and Low is almost choral. However, it remains apparent that these lads are a million miles away from the 'stand-up-for-the-key-change' school of dewy-eyed balladry.

The Wanted live up to their promise to bring sexy back to boy bandism with come on song Let's Get Ugly which cheekily uses the famous refrain from Ennio Morricone's western movie theme *The Good The Bad and The Ugly*. Say It On The Radio is a rocker whilst Golden is an interestingly strange almost-indie rock song. The emphasis is back on the dancefloor for Weakness before the double salvo of potential hits, Behind Bars and Made. A lot of people are going to want The Wanted.

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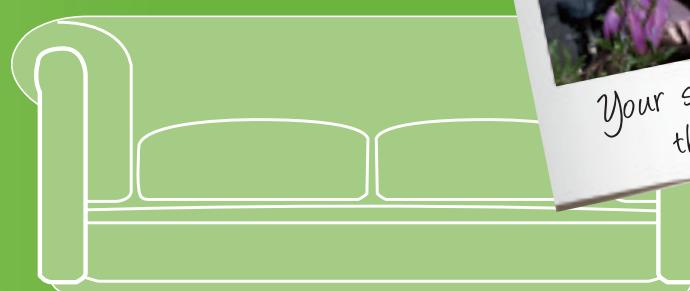
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The top property guide for Walsall, Brownhills, Aldridge, Willenhall and Bloxwich

Five-bed home is set in a cul-de-sac

Number 10 Fishley Close in Bloxwich is on the market with Edwards Moore estate agent for offers in the region of £234,950.

The four bedroom family home is at the head of a quiet cul-de-sac location and early inspection is advised by the agent to fully appreciate the well-planned accommodation.

Approach is via a large block-paved driveway with to an enclosed porch with a door through to a spacious lounge measuring 22ft 2in x 11ft 1in with upvc double-glazed windows to the front, two central heating radiators, television aerial point, power points, wall-mounted alarm control key pad and a focal feature fire place with flame-effect gas fire with surround.

Also from the inner hallway, stairs lead to the first floor and a dining room with dimensions of 13ft 1in x 8ft 11in. From here a sliding patio door leads into a conservatory with doors to the rear garden.

The fitted kitchen has been extended and now measures 17ft 8in x 8ft 7in with a upvc double-glazed picture window overlooking the rear garden, tiled flooring, an extensive range of matching wall cupboards with base units and roll top worksurfaces incorporating a stainless

steel sink with drainer, mixer tap, integrated double electric oven, gas hob with fitted extractor and space and plumbing for a dishwasher.

There is also a large storage cupboard and utility room, guest WC and door to the garage.

On the first floor, stairs lead to a landing with central heating radiator, power points and window to the side aspect with view across open fields.

Doors open to five bedrooms which all have a central heating radiator, power points and upvc double-glazed windows. Other features in the room's include a range of fitted furniture to include wardrobes and telephone point in the master bedroom.

Access

With a suite comprising a low-level WC, wash hand basin, P-shaped bath with power shower the bathroom also includes an airing cupboard, loft access and inset ceiling lights.

Outside, the house is set back from the road with plenty of off-road parking. To the rear is a well-maintained, south-facing rear garden with paved patio areas and lawned area beyond with trees and planting.

For further information visit the website at www.edwardsmoore.co.uk or call 01922 615222.



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In need of complete modernisation and improvement, this Victorian mid-terraced property comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Fore and Rear Gardens.

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Viewings Saturdays and Wednesday 17th November and Tuesday 7th December at 12.45pm



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LOT 9
47 Stonnall Road, Aldridge



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LOT 1
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LOT 4
10 Canning Close, Walsall



GUIDE PRICE £165,000 - £175,000

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A most appealing traditional detached house in this popular residential location which has been extended and modernised to offer attractive and well maintained living accommodation. Having gas central heating and uPVC double glazing the property includes: Porch, Hall, Lounge opening to Dining Room, Extended Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Attractive Bathroom, Garage, Small Rear Garden and Fore garden with Parking.

LOT 2
60 Friezland Lane, Brownhills



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LOT 7
93 Whetstone Lane, Aldridge



In need of modernisation, this traditional detached residence situated close to Aldridge Village and offers the following gas centrally heated accommodation: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens.

GUIDE PRICE
£150,000 - £170,000
Viewings Saturdays and Wednesday 17th November and Tuesday 7th December at 11.15am

Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA. Tel: 01922 615222

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DIXONS

Estate Agents

Willenhall Office
01902 634497

DoingMore...

Blenheim Road, Willenhall



£130,000

A three bedroom semi-detached home situated on a corner plot on the popular Summer Hayes development. A viewing is strongly advised to see the plot size on offer and the well thought out downstairs space internally.

Glamis Road, Willenhall



£150,000

Beautifully presented three bedroom detached home situated on a popular road in New Invention. Ideal for local schools!!! This property would make an excellent family home.

Ullswater Road, Willenhall



£250,000

A stunning four bedroom detached on the popular Coppice Farm development. With exceptional showhome style kitchen and bathrooms and a luxury finish throughout a viewing is essential.

Broad Lane, Essington



Offers in the region of £220,000

A well presented three bedroom detached home situated on an exclusive road in Essington. This would be an ideal family home and a viewing is essential. Come make us an offer

Kestrel Grove, Willenhall



£209,950

Four bedroom detached on the sought after Coppice Farm development. lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, conservatory, bathroom, ensuite, rear garden, driveway and integral garage.

Hawthorn Place, Walsall



£105,000 REDUCED

A well presented two bedroom semi-detached home situated on a popular road in Bentley. Would be great for first time buyers!!! Vendors motivated to sell.

Redwood Way, Willenhall



£120,000 OPEN HOUSE

OPEN HOUSE Saturday 13th November 11-12 "CHAIN-FREE" MUST SELL! Coppice Farm location with motivated vendors! Call 01902 634497. Just turn up

Birmingham Street, Willenhall



£110,000 NEW

A three bedroom home situated close to Willenhall Town Centre offering exceptionally spacious rooms and disabled access if necessary, lounge extension, downstairs wet room and garage.

Alvington Close, Willenhall



Offers Over £125,000 REDUCED

Well presented three bedroom semi-detached home with cinema room situated on a cul-de-sac close to Jct. 10 M6 and with excellent access to local shops and schools.

Whitminster Close, Willenhall



£140,000 NEW

A three bedroom detached home situated in a cul-de-sac location close to local schools and shops, garage and landscaped gardens. A viewing is recommended!!!

Dillways Lane, Willenhall



£125,000 NEW

Two bedroom detached bungalow situated on a popular road. Close to the Town Centre and transport links. Potential to extended subject to planning consents. Come and view and offer. No chain

Oxted Close, Wednesfield



£250,000 NEW

Three bedroom detached bungalow situated in cul-de-sac in Wednesfield, comprising lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, dining room, ensuite, bathroom and detached garage.

Pinson Road, Willenhall



£100,000 REDUCED

An immaculately presented three bedroom semi-detached home situated close to Willenhall Town Centre and also ideal for commuting via the M6 or to Wolverhampton.

Cannock Road, Willenhall



£200,000 REDUCED

Genuine buyers? in a good position seller insists open to all serious offers. No chain. View it, love it and make an offer. Call us today to book to view on 01902 634497!!!!

Longwood Rise, Willenhall



£150,000 NEW

A three bedroom semi-detached home situated on a popular road. Ideally located for Jct. 10 M6 and local schools. These don't hang around long!!! Call us NOW!!! No chain

Carisbrooke Road, Wednesbury



£70,950

Three bedroom mid terraced home situated in a popular location in Wednesbury. Comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, off road parking, rear garden, central heating, double glazing. No chain.

Edinburgh Avenue, Walsall



£120,000 NEW

A three bedroom semi-detached situated in a popular location with landscaped gardens and presented immaculately comprising luxurious kitchen/diner, conservatory and benefitting from no upward chain

Bloomfield Drive, Willenhall



£112,000 REDUCED

A mid terrace property with lounge/diner, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden and garage, benefiting from central heating and double glazing

Broad Lane South, Wednesbury



£180,000

An individually built and designed spacious three bedroom bungalow with lounge, kitchen, utility, family bathroom, sitting room, garage and off road parking with good sized private gardens.

Mill Lane, Willenhall



£170,000 NEW

Two bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a popular location. Close to local shops and transport links. Luxurious underfloor heating. Detached garage and mature gardens.

Sowers Gardens, Willenhall



£90,000 REDUCED

A well presented three bedroom terraced home situated in a peaceful cul-de-sac in Short Heath. Just moments from local shops and within an easy commute of Jct. 10 M6. No chain. Viewng recommended

5 Kinver Avenue, Willenhall, WV12 4LS



PUBLIC NOTICE

By order of the Mortgagee in possession, we would advise you than an offer has been made on the above property in the sum of Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pounds (£67,500).

Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents of their best offer during the course of the next seven days. Dixons Estate Agents, 53 High Road, Willenhall WV12 4JR 01902 634497

Nightingale Crescent, Willenhall



Offers Over £200,000 REDUCED

Substantial four bedroom detached on the extremely sought after Coppice Farm development. Internally offering lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, conservatory, bathroom, en-suite, driveway parking and a generous plot this would be an ideal first time purchase!

Stonehouse Crescent, Wednesbury



Offers Over £100,000

A stunning two bedroom semi-detached property which has been completely refurbished. Benefiting from driveway parking and a generous plot this would be an ideal first time purchase

Broadmeadows Road, Willenhall



£125,000

Link detached home offering refurbished accommodation, three bedrooms, two reception rooms & situated within a cul-de-sac location. Considered ideal for 'The Woodlands School' & offers local access to Junction 10 of the M6.



NEW
SHORT HEATH
POOLE'S LANE
★ JUST AVAILABLE
★ Two brand new three bedroom semi-detached properties
★ Popular Short Heath location
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Spacious accommodation
★ Ideal for first time buyers
★ En suite shower room
★ 21ft extended lounge/dining room
★ Viewing via Agent
£162,995



REduced
SUMMER HAYES, WILLENHALL
CARDIGAN DRIVE
★ Pleasantly appointed extended semi
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ Double glazing
★ Upvc double glazed windows
★ En suite shower room
★ Spacious accommodation
★ Viewing via Agent
WAS £139,950 NOW £132,950



NEW
WILLENHALL
MERE CLOSE, OFF POOL HAYES LANE
★ Traditional style semi in popular location
★ Three bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Gas central heating
★ Double glazing
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Double length garage
★ Utility and store room
★ Block paved driveway
★ 22ft extended lounge/dining room
★ View overlooking local field to the fore
★ Viewing recommended
£139,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



REduced
WILLENHALL
BIRCHFIELDS ROAD
★ Detached bungalow in a popular location off Broad Lane South
★ Two bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Double length garage
★ Generous rear garden
★ View overlooking local field to the fore
★ Integral garage
★ Pleasant gardens
WAS £179,950 NOW £174,950 NO CHAIN



NEW
WILLENHALL
NEW INVENTION
LICHFIELD ROAD
★ Considerably improved three bedroom detached property
★ Gas central heating
★ Double glazed windows
★ Generous rear garden
★ Integral garage
★ Pleasant gardens
★ Fitted kitchen inc. oven, hob and refrigerator
★ Refitted bathroom with separate shower cubicle and tiled floor and walls
★ Large garden to the rear
★ Off road parking
£184,950 Offers, No Chain



NEW
WILLENHALL
BEWLEY ROAD, OFF STROOD AVENUE
★ Immaculately presented three bedroom semi-detached property
★ Three bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Large open plan kitchen inc. oven and hob
★ Double glazed windows
★ Garage and block paved driveway
★ Upvc double glazing
£131,950 OFFERS CONSIDERED, NO CHAIN



REduced
WILLENHALL
OAK ROAD
★ Immaculately extended traditional style semi-detached property
★ Three bedrooms
★ Spaciously appointed accommodation
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Garage and block paved driveway
★ Upvc double glazing
★ Double glazed windows
£134,995 OFFERS



NEW
WILLENHALL
MILL LANE
★ A delightful traditional style bay fronted semi-detached property
★ Three bedrooms
★ Spaciously appointed accommodation
★ Fitted bathroom with shower over bath
★ Large established rear garden
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Double length garage
★ Generous rear garden
★ Gas central heating
WAS £249,950 NOW £239,950



NEW
WILLENHALL
FIVEFIELDS ROAD
★ Splendidly appointed three bedroom semi-detached bungalow
★ Three bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Large established rear garden with ornamental garden pond
★ Fitted bathroom with white suite and shower
★ Off road parking
★ Magnificent UPVC double glazed windows
★ Large established rear garden
WAS £249,950 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL



REduced
WILLENHALL
CRAB LANE
★ Attractive traditional style semi-detached bungalow
★ Popular and much requested location
★ Two bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Large established rear garden
★ Ample off road parking
WAS £229,950 NOW £215,000



NEW
BENTLEY, WALSALL
WREXHAM AVENUE
★ Traditional style bay fronted semi
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Two reception rooms
★ Pleasant gardens
★ Upvc double glazing
£89,500 OFFERS



REduced
BENTLEY
HAWTHORNE PLACE
★ Pleasant traditional style double fronted semi-detached property
★ Two bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Gas central heating, uPVC double glazing
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Upvc double glazing
WAS £96,950 NOW £89,955 IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY



NEW
WILLENHALL
CLEAVELAND CLOSE
★ Pleasantly appointed three bedroom semi
★ Excellent fitted breakfast kitchen
★ Upvc double glazing
★ Off road parking
★ Pleasant gardens
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Viewing recommended
£104,950 OFFERS



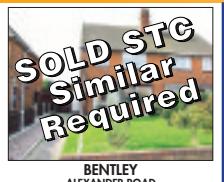
REduced
WILLENHALL
BEECH ROAD
★ Traditional style detached bungalow residence in popular Copitas Farm development
★ Popular location with parkland to rear
★ Three bedrooms
★ Off road parking
★ Pleasant gardens
★ Gas central heating
WAS £149,950 NOW £144,950 NO CHAIN



NEW
WILLENHALL
COPPICE FARM ESTATE
BOWNESS GROVE
★ Modern style detached bungalow residence in popular Copitas Farm development
★ Fitted breakfast kitchen
★ Garage & double width driveway
★ Downstairs guest cloakroom & WC
★ Pleasant enclosed rear garden
★ Internal viewing strongly recommended
★ Two reception rooms
£229,950 Offers, No Chain



SOLD STC
Similar Required
SHORT HEATH
HOUNDS LANE
★ Extended semi-detached property in popular Short Heath location
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Two reception rooms
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Garage and carpeted front door
£169,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



SOLD STC
Similar Required
BENTLEY
ALEXANDER ROAD
★ Well proportioned three bedroom semi
★ Fitted kitchen inc. oven & hob
★ Front and rear gardens
★ Gas central heating, double glazing
★ Two reception rooms
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Garage and carpeted front door
£79,950 - IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY



SOLD STC
Similar Required
WILLENHALL
CLOTHIER STREET
★ Pleasantly appointed three bedroom semi
★ Spacious fitted dining kitchen
★ Upvc double glazing
★ Fitted bathroom
★ Gas central heating
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Upvc double glazing
★ Internal viewing recommended
£89,995 - IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY



SOLD STC
Similar Required
ESSINGTON
HILL STREET
★ Pleasantly appointed three bedroom semi
★ Large front and rear gardens
★ Potential investment property
★ Gas central heating
★ Upvc double glazing
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Internal viewing recommended
£119,995



SOLD STC
Similar Required
SHORT HEATH
BIRKWITH ROAD NORTH
★ Beautifully presented traditional style detached property
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Two reception rooms
★ Fitted kitchen with appliances
★ Off road parking
★ Pleasant gardens
★ Internal viewing recommended
£129,950



NEW
SUMMER HAYES
WOBURN AVENUE
★ An attractively appointed detached bungalow in popular Summer Hayes location
★ Popular front door
★ Two bedrooms (potential to convert to three)
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Double glazing
★ Garage and ample off road parking
£184,950 Offers - Viewing Essential



REduced
SHORT HEATH, WILLENHALL
WALKERS FOLD
★ Much improved modern style semi-detached house
★ Popular location
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Double glazing
★ Garage and carpeted front door
WAS £214,950 NOW £212,450



NEW
WILLENHALL
STROUD AVENUE
★ Pleasantly appointed mid terraced three bedroom house
★ Newly decorated and carpeted throughout
★ Three bedrooms
★ Pleasant rear garden
£550 PCM



NEW
WILLENHALL
NEW INVENTION
HIGH GROVE CLOSE
★ Pleasantly appointed mid terraced three bedroom house
★ Newly decorated and carpeted throughout
★ Three bedrooms
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Gas central heating and double glazing
★ Upvc double glazing
★ Fitted bathroom with shower over bath
★ Off road parking
£550 PCM



NEW
WILLENHALL
FARMHOUSE ROAD
★ Mid terraced house
★ Three bedrooms
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Off road parking
★ Pleasant gardens
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Fitted kitchen with appliances
★ Off road parking
★ Pleasant gardens
★ Internal viewing recommended
£490 PCM



REduced
SHORT HEATH, WILLENHALL
WALKERS FOLD
★ Much improved modern style semi-detached house
★ Popular location
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Double glazing
★ Garage and carpeted front door
WAS £214,950 NOW £212,450



REduced
ESSINGTON
SNEYD LANE
★ Traditional style bay fronted semi
★ Two reception rooms
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Double glazing
★ Garage and carpeted front door
WAS £134,950 NOW £124,950



NEW
WEDNESFIELD
HYLSTONE CRESCENT
★ Spacious mid terraced three bedroom house
★ Large rear garden
★ Gas central heating and double glazing
★ Upvc double glazing
★ Kitchen diner
£495 PCM



NEW
WEDNESFIELD
WOODEND ROAD
★ Traditional style mid terraced three bedroom house
★ Double glazing and central heating
★ Fitted kitchen with oven and hob
★ Double glazing and central heating
★ Fitted bathroom with shower over bath
★ Off road parking
£450 PCM



NEW
WILLENHALL
ROBINSONS BUNGALOW, GIPSY LANE
★ Attractive two bed detached bungalow
★ Fitted kitchen
★ Bathrooms and separate WC
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Central heating throughout and newly double glazed windows
★ Off road parking
£450 PCM



REduced
BENTLEY
BEVIN ROAD
★ Pleasantly appointed semi-detached property
★ Ideal first time purchase
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC single glazed windows
★ Double glazing
★ Garage and carpeted front door
NOW £89,995



REduced
WILLENHALL
SHERLOCK CLOSE
★ Beautifully presented modern conservatory semi
★ Two bedrooms
★ UPVC single glazed windows, gas central heating
★ Double glazing and carpeted front door
£118,750 OFFERS



NEW
WILLENHALL
TEMPLE ROAD
★ Three bed terraced house
★ Central heated and double glazed throughout
★ Fitted bathroom with shower over bath
★ Fitted kitchen inc. oven, hob, fridge and integrated dishwasher
★ Double glazing and central heating
★ Fitted bathroom with shower over bath
★ Shower room
£395 PCM



NEW
HIGBURY, WILLENHALL
SCHOOL STREET
★ First floor flat
★ Two bedrooms
★ Convenient for Willenhall town centre
★ Lounge with balcony
★ Central heating and double glazing throughout
★ Fitted kitchen inc. oven, hob and integrated dishwasher
★ Double glazing throughout
★ Shower room
£350 PCM



NEW
WILLENHALL
CROSS STREET
★ Spacious second floor studio apartment
★ Living accommodation including spacious bedroom
★ Fitted kitchen with ceramic tiled floors
★ Separate bathroom
£295 PCM

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Walsall
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Broadway North Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Detached £5000 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£500 PCM



Gillity Avenue Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£700 PCM



Silverstone Close Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Lichfield Road Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Mere Close Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Sneyd Lane Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Loughfield Close Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Stafford Street Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Smiths Flour Mill Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Lancaster Place Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Laneside Garden Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Yarmcroft, Lichfield Road Rushall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Kingsley Street Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Primley Avenue Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Bell Tower Close Bloxwich Heath

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Derby Street Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



May Street Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



West Street Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Tanners Court Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Guild Court Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Bewell Close Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Sekukwana Court Shorey Head, Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Bridge Street Chambers Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Prince Street Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Foster Street Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Bloxwich Road Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Merton Court Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Lewis Street Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Ingram Road Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Grove Lofts Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Field Road Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Hanlon Street Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Harrison Street Bloxwich

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Mont Road Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Bennacks Lane Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM



Pershore Street Walsall

- 2 Bed Detached £4000 PCM
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached £4500 PCM
- 2 Bed Semi-Detached £3500 PCM
- 2 Bed Flat £1000 PCM
- 1 Bed Flat £600 PCM

£800 PCM

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Willenhall Cheadle Estate  REDUCED £95,000	Walsall Dagnall Avenue  NEW £102,500	Walsall Dagnall Road  £224,995	Walsall Dagnall, New Barnetts  REDUCED £134,995	Willenhall Cheadle Estate  £89,995
Willenhall Henry Portch Street  NEW £84,995	Walsall Hobart Place, Dagnall  NEW £89,995	Walsall Hobart Street, South  REDUCED £75,000	Walsall Hobart Avenue, Bentley  NEW £81,995	Walsall Hobart Close  NEW £82,995
Willenhall Hobart Close  £114,995	Walsall Hobart Close  £110,000	Walsall Hobart Close  £160,000	Walsall Hobart Close  NEW £320,000	Walsall Hobart Close  £118,995
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Semi-detached on at £299,950



This semi-detached at number 5 Church Walk, Tettenhall Green, is on the market with Homepoint.

cellar with tiled floor.

To the rear the kitchen also benefits from a utility and access to a bathroom.

The suite includes a shower over, low-flush WC, pedestal wash basin, tiled floor, chrome towel rail, window to the front, a double-glazed window to the side and tiled walls.

One upstairs, the first floor landing provides access to the lounge which measures 13ft 10in and includes an inset fire place with flame-effect gas fire, sash window to the front, picture rail, exposed wooden flooring and ornate coving and ceiling rose.

The

dining room also has an inset fire place with wood burner, sash window and ornate coving a ceiling rose. The room's dimensions are 13ft 10in x 11ft 8in.

In the L-shaped kitchen, which measures 15ft 4in x 15ft 10, features include a one-and-a-half bowl sink unit with cupboards below, matching wall and base cupboards with granite worksurfaces, ceiling spot lights, two double-glazed windows and door to the rear. Space is also available for a range cooker and a door leads to a pantry and

There is also a brick pathway to the rear of the extended garden which has a decked area, a variety of plants and shrubs and area mainly laid to lawn.

For further information visit the website www.homepoint.org.uk or call 01902 766388 to arrange a viewing.

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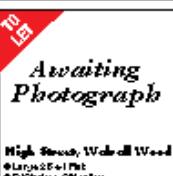
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• Studio & Double Detached
• Double Glazing & Heating
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Willesley Grove, Pelsall,
• Three Bed Detached
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High Street, Walsall, Willenhall
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Orme Street, Willenhall,
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This Japanese maple (acer palmatum) is ideal for adding contrast



Acer griseum has distinctive bark which peels easily from the trunk



With deep red leaves, acer palmatum 'bloodgood' is a fine addition.

Nothing acer than these trees for show of colour

There are few trees that display the spectacular hues of autumn more vividly than the acer, with its delicate, finely cut foliage which provides a volcano of colour, from warm yellows and burnt oranges to fiery reds and deep burgundies.

Every garden, no matter how large or small, should find space for trees – and there are few to top the acer for elegance, says top garden designer Andrew McIndoe, of Hillier Nurseries, recently crowned International Grower of the Year.

Gardeners tend to concentrate on the little herbaceous beauties, but it is the trees that give the structure, height and year-round interest to a planting scheme," says McIndoe, who designed 20 of Hillier's 65 consecutive gold medal-winning gardens at Chelsea Flower Show.

The supreme elegance, magnificent colour

and sheer volume of varieties make the acer a good choice of tree, whatever the size of your garden, he says.

They will grow happily on acid or alkaline soils, need sun for good foliage colour but should be kept clear of biting winds, which will burn their delicate foliage, or drought, which will cause their leaves to go brown at the tips.

Japanese maples, varieties of Acer palmatum, are ideal for smaller gardens.

Foliage

"Strong growing varieties such as Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood', with purple-red foliage, are the best to choose where a red-leaved tree of around 3-4m is required," says McIndoe.

Japanese maples are also excellent for growing in the gentle shade of larger trees provided the earth in which they are planted is not awash with the roots of the larger specimen.

While some acers provide colour in spring and summer, if you want them to become a focal point in autumn look no further than

Acer palmatum 'Ozakazuki', which turns from green to vivid scarlet.

"Plant it where the leaves will be back-lit by the sun in morning or late afternoon for best effect," says McIndoe.

The coral bark maple, A. palmatum 'Sango-kaku', is renowned for its orange-red young stems which glow in winter light after the butter yellow autumn leaves have fallen.

"This is a good choice for a smaller garden because it has upwardly sweeping branches as a young tree," he adds.

Plant it with the sapphire blue-flowered dwarf shrub Ceratostigma willmottianum for a striking combination. Acer can also be grown in containers to provide a splash of colour and architectural pizzazz on a patio. Plant them in large pots of John Innes loam-based compost for the best results, or a compost comprising equal parts John Innes No 2 and a soilless multipurpose compost, which will hang on to water and nutrients more effectively. If you want a taller tree and are prepared to be patient while it establishes itself, a good choice is the paper-bark maple, Acer

griseum, McIndoe recommends. This has green bark maples including Acer davidii 'George Forrest', with its red-stalked leaves, and the native field maple A. campestre, which has a broad, bushy habit and small green leaves which turn butter-yellow in autumn.

McIndoe concludes: "Autumn and early winter are the ideal times to plant a new tree in your garden. Make sure you give it the best start by digging a hole much larger than the roots, prepare the soil well and break up the ground in the bottom of the hole, adding shrub and tree planting compost and slow-release fertiliser to the soil before you backfill."

"Make sure your new tree is securely held with a quality stake and tie and check it regularly from next spring as the tree grows."

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Detached three bedroom bungalow comprising entrance lobby, reception hall, lounge, kitchen/breakfast area/conservatory, two bedrooms, possible garage space, extensive off road parking, fully double glazed, gas central heating, double glazed, front and rear gardens.

68 CHURCH STREET,
CHADSMOOR
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VACANT POSSESSION

Mid terraced house comprising entrance hall, lobby, living room, kitchen, refitted shower room, landing, three bedrooms, fully double glazed, gas central heating, garden to rear, possible garage space.

80 CHURCH STREET,
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Detached bungalow in popular residential area comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, double glazed, front and rear gardens, driveway, carport, combined store room/workshop.

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64 ALLPORT ROAD,
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FREEHOLD WITH
VACANT POSSESSION

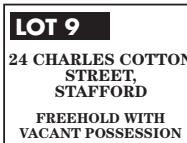
End terrace house of character in a popular residential area close to town centre in need of improvement/refurbishment comprising canopy porch, entrance lobby, hall, sitting room, living room, kitchen/breakfast room, dining room, separate toilet, galleryed landing, two bedrooms, box room, gas central heating, predominantly double glazed, side/ rear gardens.

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Small detached house in need of refurbishment located in a popular area within easy access of facilities at Cannock town centre comprising entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, gas fired central heating, intruder alarm, double glazed, built-on garage, well maintained gardens with wide side gardens.

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Well maintained and improved semi detached house comprising entrance lobby, lounge/dining area, refitted kitchen, utility/sitting room, landing, two bedrooms, bathroom, gas fired central heating, intruder alarm, double glazed, built-on garage, well maintained gardens with wide side gardens.

24 CHARLES COTTON
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End terrace dwelling house of brick and tile construction occupying large corner plot having the benefit of planning permission for the erection of two terrace houses, in need of general refurbishment but benefiting from being predominantly double glazed and having a gas fired central heating system comprising canopy porch, entrance lobby, sitting room, kitchen, rear verandah with coal store off, landing, two bedrooms, bathroom, front, side and rear gardens, concrete sectional garage.

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117a Edward Street, Broomhill, Cannock	10.00 am	10.00 am
68 Church Street, Chadmoor, Cannock	10.30 am	10.30 am
80 Church Street, Chadmoor, Cannock	10.50 am	10.50 am
10 Cannock Road, Blackfords, Cannock	11.10 am	11.10 am
11 Cannock Road, Blackfords, Cannock	11.30 am	11.30 am
2 Hollies Avenue, Cannock	12.00 noon	12.00 noon
64 Allport Road, Cannock	12.30 pm	12.30 pm
28 Heath Acres, Wednesbury	1.30 pm	1.30 pm
24, Charles Cotton Street, Stafford	2.30 pm	2.30 pm

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19 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, Staffordshire. WS11 1DG

Fiat embraces a greener future but still offers a rev-happy car which is fun to drive

Ultimate clean machine

FIAT'S award-winning new TwinAir concept is set to transform how drivers view petrol power's potential.

The technologically advanced low consumption 875cc two-cylinder engine is the cleanest quantity production petrol engine in the world. Yet it still manages to combine a rev-happy fun appeal with significantly more power than larger capacity four cylinder units.

The 85bhp version of the engine makes its UK debut this month under the bonnet of Fiat's iconic 500. Installing a two-cylinder engine in a Fiat 500 might seem like paying homage to the original 13 bhp model of 1957, but this decision is not primarily a sentimental one.

In complete compliance with the essential requirements of the 21st century car owner, the TwinAir engine offers an attractive means of downsizing while substantially reducing fuel consumption and exhaust emissions, but without sacrificing power or driver enjoyment.

Combined with the Fiat 500's many other attributes, this powertrain is expected to appeal to a wide variety of customers including many who may not have considered Fiat before.

Those who care about the environment will find the TwinAir's low CO2 figure appealing, as will owners who are keen to keep costs down.

And it should also find favour with trend



The new 875cc TwinAir engine is expected to account for a fifth of Fiat 500 UK sales



500C cabrios have the new engine too



The interior is just as stylish as before

This technology comes in a Fiat 500 that is already firmly established on the motoring landscape. And it features all the assets that have made this car such a hit. There's a choice of slick-shifting manual change five-speed gearboxes alongside the Dualogic robotised manual. This allows drivers who want automatic shifting to prompt changes simply by pushing or pulling the gear lever.

There's an extensive list of standard equipment including the all-important safety suite of ABS anti-lock brakes and Electronic Brakeforce Distribution, which along with seven airbags, have helped the Fiat 500 become EuroNCAP crash safety five-star rated. There's also a wide-ranging options list and huge scope for owners to personalise their cars, as with other Fiat 500s. On top of that, every TwinAir-equipped Fiat 500 will feature Start&Stop and a Gear Shift Indicator to help drivers achieve the best economy possible. In addition, owners can specify Fiat's award-winning Blue&Me infotainment system which allows drivers to operate their music and phone via the car's steering wheel controls or with voice activation.

Blue&Me TomTom also includes Fiat's ground-breaking ecoDrive system to give real-time fuel consumption information and advice on how to get the best economy out of the Fiat 500. As well as offering a unique proposition of power with low CO2 emissions, the high-tech Fiat 500 TwinAir is extremely competitively priced, costing from £10,665 in Pop specification. The TwinAir engine will be available across the Fiat 500 and Fiat 500C ranges in all trim levels.

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CHRONICLE MOTORING



The original people carrier from Renault has been given new looks, more equipment and lower pricing

Subtle 2011 facelift for popular Espace

RENAULT has given its enduring Espace luxury MPV a "subtle facelift" for 2011, with styling revisions, greater levels of equipment and lower pricing.

Prices for the new model will start from £24,495, and savings of up to £3,005 are available compared to the old range.

With more than 1.2 million sold over the last 26 years, the Espace continues to attract customers through a winning combination of interior flexibility, luxury and refinement.

These values are enhanced still further in the latest version, principally through new equipment and revised diesel engines.

The original MPV from Renault now comes with LED technology, while its new headlights harmonise with the striking new Pearl Blue body colour and gloss black exterior trim details.

On the inside, it also now benefits from the Carminat TomTom

Live real-time satellite navigation system. In keeping with the times, the CO₂ emissions of the core-range dCi 150 engine have been slashed by 18g/km from 188 to 170g/km, thanks notably to work on combating friction and carefully-selected gear ratios.

A new range structure makes Espace's emblematic positioning as a practical, high-end MPV easier for customers to understand.

Expectations

The Dynamique TomTom delivers a high standard of safety and comfort-enhancing features which match the expectations of families and business users seeking seven identically comfortable seats and a modular interior layout.

Its extensive list of features includes sport-style upholstery featuring extra side support and exclusive Teflon protection, the fully-integrated Carminat TomTom Live navigation, as well

as a new gloss black interior trim. In addition to the high levels of core equipment, one of Espace's key strengths, its almost limitless modularity, remains intact, thanks to 10 aluminium tracks in the floor which enable the interior and boot space to be adapted in line with the number of passengers and luggage being carried.

On the outside, the headlights now incorporate LED daytime running lights and the range of seven body colours includes a new, striking Pearl Blue. Renault Espace's premium positioning is further underpinned by its new 17-inch Epius and Novadis alloy wheels.

Befitting a premium model designed to carry its occupants in unrivalled style, a wide range of options are available to customise its interior and exterior look to serve even the most discerning tastes.

Order books open next week ahead of the showroom launch in January.

Skoda unveils its new range of 4x4 models



A new four-wheel drive diesel version of the Octavia Estate, above, has been launched by Skoda

SKODA has announced a series of four-wheel drive versions for its popular Octavia and Superb ranges. Building on its multi-award winning product line-up, the Czech firm will introduce a 4x4 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp engine with automatic DSG transmission to hatchback and estate versions of the Superb, Octavia Estate and Octavia Scout.

The advanced four-wheel drive system is designed to tackle those challenging condi-

tions that would leave two-wheel drive competitors stranded.

Power distribution is controlled electronically by a fourth-generation Haldex clutch. Under normal traction conditions, 96 per cent of the total power is directed to the front axle.

Adverse

In adverse weather conditions – similar to those experienced in the UK last winter – the Haldex system reacts in a

split second to redirect power to those wheels with better traction, greatly increasing driving safety.

The 4x4s capabilities aren't limited to wintry conditions. In summer months the 4x4 technology will ensure that towing caravans and trailers is easier and safer, and, because drive to the rear wheels is disengaged when not required, there's little adverse effect on fuel consumption.

The introduction of an automatic twin-clutch DSG gearbox

to the existing 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp engine adds to Skoda's broad range of four-wheel drive cars which now includes Octavia Estate, Octavia Scout, Yeti, Superb hatch, and Superb Estate.

The Octavia Estate in 4x4 form is available to order from this month, with prices starting at £21,705 on the road.

Superb 4x4 prices start at £22,935 and range up to £26,705 for an Elegance 166 model.

Side rings in changes but suffer a loss

LICHFIELD 48 WALSALL 18

Walsall showed seven changes from the side that had a much-needed league win just seven days ago.

Several players from the successful United team were given the opportunity to taste the demands of first team rugby in this Staffordshire Cup semi-final. Also included for the first time was Jonathan Edwards, a young Australian who has only recently arrived at Delves Road.

The team made an encouraging start, producing several good attacks in the opening minutes. But they only had a Andy Hawkins penalty as a reward.

Even this score was soon equalled as the hosts put over a penalty within a minute of the Walsall score.

Lichfield got their first try after 12 minutes. It was their first visit into the Walsall 22, and a simple catch and drive saw them score. Massey put over a fine conversion to give them a 10-3 lead. Another fairly basic scrum half and backrow move got the hosts their next score after 20 minutes.

The visitors struck back with a very good try which started deep in their own half. Some good passing released full back Ed Mott, who made a great deal of ground before feeding Tom Emes who had no problem in finishing off the attack.

Just before half time, a high tackle gifted Lichfield an easy penalty. But Walsall failed to add to their half time.

The visitors dominated the second half but only had a penalty and one try for their efforts. Lichfield, in contrast, were confident to use their sharp backs at every opportunity, and were rewarded with four more tries. Walsall's score came in the closing stages, when lock Rob Tierney was driven over from close range. The Delves Road team return to league action this week. They travel to deepest Warwickshire to play Stratford.



Jonathan Edwards showing his skill.

The 3rd XV played Handsworth 2nds and won 22-5. Three tries from Harvey Wootton, and one from Philippe Demizeix. Neil Pittaway kicked a conversion.

Walsall Junior Rugby

Walsall U8s produced their finest performance to date at Newport. They drew their first game 4-4 lost their second 5-4 and then superb 10-9 win in the final game. Johan Christofferson was a constant threat, Angus Mellor, Martha Harding, Ethan Strange, Sam Maxwell and Samuel Younger all stood out. While Millie Connell set a real example with her determination and leadership to put the team on a great team performance.

Walsall U9s were also at Newport. In the first game against the hosts a fine breakaway run by Ben Pitt supported by Ben Stackhouse and James Rogers opened the scoring.

Some great evasive and determined hard running by Matt Howells resulted in another score. Mo Perager and Will Adams all made fine contributions and another fine score came from Ben Stackhouse. Ben Pitt got a brace of tries to secure a 5-1 victory.

The second game saw some of Walsall's emerging players face a determined Newport side and by the end of the first half Walsall found themselves three tries down. However, a couple of changes were made to make the game more even and the match finished with the hosts winning 4-1.

The third game was against a determined and skilful Dudley Kingswinford side. DK started strongly but some super tackling kept them out.

Matt Howells led the Walsall response and stormed his way across the line. Ben Stackhouse added another fine breakaway try after ripping the ball from a DK player on half-way. But the try of the day came from Ben Pitt running up the hill to score and win the game 3-2.

Walsall U11s faced a strong and well-drilled side who were soon in front through a couple of good, converted tries. Walsall clawed their way back into the game with some strong running and support work, from Henry Lavin and Sam Tillott which allowed first Rhys Gaddu to score a try and then Josh Stokes ploughed over. Rhys Gaddu converted both. But Newport secured a 28-14 victory.

In the second game of the day Walsall played DK in a tight fought match. Again Walsall started slowly allowing DK to go two converted tries ahead in the first half. In the second half Walsall again came back with two tries from MoJesh Stokes, both converted by Rhys Gaddu. However tiredness told and DK eventually won 26-14.

Walsall U13s faced Wolverhampton at Delves Road. The visitors had the best possible start with a try straight from the kick off. Walsall to their credit responded well. They produced some really good rugby both in attack and defence. They scored four good tries and fully deserved their 26-17 victory. Tries came from Barron Abrahams, Ollie Parsons, Ethan Walker with Aaron Gilbert kicking three conversions. It was also an impressive Walsall debut for Nathan Blackwood.

Walsall U14s suffered their first league loss in more than two years, at Stafford when they were beaten 19-12. Walsall dominated the early stages with some good rugby and possession. But it was Stafford that scored the tries and all their points during the first half, thus establishing a 19-0 lead.

BLOXWICH

Blox come out the victors in a gruelling match



The winning Bloxwich side.

This cup-tie proved to be a peculiar points fest, in that no penalty goals were scored and all the tries were converted.

A normally resolute Bloxwich defence gave the Panthers a dream start as they scored within five minutes.

The visitors immediately replied as Daniel Palmer carved his way through for a try but the Panthers attack showed its claws once more, and regained the lead.

Once again, Bloxwich replied and took the game to 14-14 at half-time.

There was no game to hide in as players picked up injuries from the gruelling, physicality of the

MIDLANDS JUNIOR VASE ROUND 3**CHESTERFIELD PANTHERS 21****BLOXWICH 35**

encounter. Skipper Richard "Rooster" Jones led by example as he picked up two copycat tries.

With the home side working the centre channels, Bloxwich eventually gifted up a try scoring chance which the Panthers pounced on to level it at 21 all.

Daniel Hough showed his improving form to notch up two tries, with his second being a classic example of a support run.

Terry Greenwood made a 20 metre break to open up the Panthers defence, once committing the last defender to the tackle he

floated a pass into the hands of Hough who completed a 15metre unopposed run to score between the posts.

Sean Bottomer finished the game with a perfect place kicking record, by converting all five tries.

A chance to recover from injuries presents itself this weekend as Bloxwich take a break from league action, before recommencing a full program up to Christmas.

No such rest for Bloxwich 2nds however, as they represent the club by playing host to Burntwood thirds on King George V Playing Fields.

ALDRIDGE

Players dominate the day

NORTH MIDLANDS JUNIOR VASE**GRIFFINIANS 0 ALDRIDGE 27**

After last week's comfortable league victory over the same opponents, there was a question mark over whether Aldridge could reproduce the performance in this NM Junior Vase encounter.

Any doubts were soon dispelled in the first 2 minutes. From the kick off, the Aldridge forwards forced the ball into Griffinians left corner and after a couple of pick and drives, the point of attack was switched along the backs to create space for winger Pierre Bridon out wide.

The final pass didn't do him any favours but he managed to

secure the ball and avoid the covering tackles to get the touch down.

The visitors were in charge from then on and never looked like being threatened.

The forwards did their thing giving the backs plenty of opportunities to stretch their legs and a committed defensive effort was up to anything the home side could mount.

Centre Ben Pittam was next to cross, half way through the half, barging up the blind side touch, crossing just inside the left hand flag and flanker Adam

Reed, just before the break, scored what was the try of the match. From some 30 metres out and showing good pace, he produced an inspired run which weaved through a wrong-footed defence and ended between the posts. Scrum-half Chris Jones added the conversion.

No8 Terry Gibbs effectively closed out the match, just after the restart, charging over after picking up from the base of an attacking five metre scrum.

Jones converted and the latter added a penalty.

Next week Aldridge are back on league duty versus Wheaton Aston, away. Kick off 2.15pm.

PELSALL VILLA

Villa's poor run goes on as Continental star

PELSALL VILLA 0 CONTINENTAL STAR 3

The only difference between the sides was the finishing as Villa's poor run continued with this disappointing defeat.

Star started brightly and after just 3 minutes Ibrahim Benjamin made a break wide right, his ball inside found Josh O'Garro who set up James Reid to hit a low drive that was well taken by keeper Andrew Hughes.

A net move in from the right on 12 minutes ended with Franklyn Hazel bringing a full-length save from Hughes. A lovely crossfield ball by Reid but Benjamin in on goal, Hughes pushing the ball on to the bar. Next it was Daniel Holgate on 19 minutes racing on to a ball over the top before firing high over.

Villa weathered the initial storm and on 23 minutes a long ball forward by Jack Smith found Mark Woolridge who was flattened on the edge of the D, Tom Wright's free kick was taken at the foot of the post by keeper Jamie Atkins. Andrew Bentley's through-ball put Woolridge in on goal, under pressure from O'Garro he pushed his shot wide.

Benjamin crossed from the right, Reid let the ball run and hit an absolute screamer past Hughes from 20 yards. Back came Villa to win a right wing corner, the ball flew around the box and eventually dropped to Jason Wright to fire first time too high.

Powering

Star replied on 39 minutes, Tony Green powering forward from half way and fed Benjamin to cleverly slide a ball through for Davian Hamilton to curl a ball just inside the post from 25 yards. Right on half time a Nathaniel Brown through-ball saw Hughes race from the line to deny Holgate.

Star had the ball in the net twice in the first few minutes of the second half but both were ruled offside. On 58 minutes Green broke through from halfway and his low drive was easily saved. Then Holgate put Reid in on goal only for him to finish weakly.

On 61 minutes strong play in the box by James Lewis saw him turn and get in an shot that Atkins took the pace off and O'Garro cleared off the line. Back came the visitors, Hazel putting Reid clear, Tom Wright making a great saving tackle.

Then on 65 minutes Hazel's low drive was pushed on to the post by Hughes, Reid was first to react and fired high into the roof of the net.

A slide rule pass across the box by Hamilton set up Jermaine Hylton to roll a cross shot inches wide.

With 78 minutes gone set up Reid who was denied again by Hughes. On 86 minutes a cross from Bentley on the right saw Lewis loop a header just over the bar.

Right on 90 minutes Hylton ran on to a ball, Keith Grimsey saving Villa with a superbly timed tackle.

Villa struggled to make the breakthrough but then again if Continental had their shooting boots on it could have been an embarrassing defeat. So it's back to the drawing board for Villa for this Saturday's visit by Castle Vale, before the visit to Rushall on November 16 in the Walsall Senior Cup.

Bill Shaw.

RUSHALL OLYMPIC

Victory for Pics lets them leapfrog rivals in division

EVO-STIK LEAGUE FIRST DIV SOUTH**RUSHALL OLYMPIC 1 STAMFORD 0**

Following a largely uninspiring first period, the second half burst into life as the Pics forged ahead thanks to a well-crafted goal in the 49th minute.

Stamford threatened in the 17th minute when Lee Beeson progressed down the right but Christian Dacres was on hand to scoop the ball clear.

Rushall responded five minutes later with a Barlone strike that had to be hastily diverted for a corner.

On 24 minutes Pic's Anthony Maguire flicked the ball goalwards and Chris Morris produced a cheeky back-heel that bounded marginally wide.

Five minutes prior to the interval Morris displayed some good control to get past his marker and unleash a rising drive from the edge of the box that went straight into the hands of the visiting keeper Chris Wright.

On the 90 minute mark arrived, home keeper Chris Gemmill came to the rescue of his colleagues by pushing away a long-range drive to his left.

In the second minute of injury time Olympic almost put the game beyond doubt as substitute Ahmed Obeng cut into the area and forced Wright to block a drive out at his near post.

With two minutes remaining the visitors caused some consternation within the home ranks as a centre played in from the right was met by skipper Miles Chamberlain at the far post who rifled an effort inches over from 12 yards.

As the 90 minute mark

arrived, home keeper Chris Gemmill came to the rescue of his colleagues by pushing away a long-range drive to his left.

In the second minute of injury

time Olympic almost put the game beyond doubt as substitute Ahmed Obeng cut into the area and forced Wright to block a drive out at his near post.

The visitors first real attack saw them pull a goal back late in the half to make it 3-1 at the break.

Bloxwich gifted Heath Town a second when a pass was intercepted early in the second half.

Taylor headed home his fourth goal to restore Bloxwich's two goal advantage before Lewis Perry drilled home to make it five after a Karl Edwards shot was cleared off the line.

The visitors managed a late consolation goal.

DARLINGTON 1**BLOXWICH UNITED 4**

Darlington took the lead on seven minutes.

Bloxwich equalised on 28 with a shot from John Freeman making it 1-1 at half-time.

Lewis Perry laid off the ball edge for Darlington captain Anthony Gemmill to drill home to make it 3-1.

Leon Taylor poked home rebound off keeper Alan Wilkes volley. The final score came after Taylor brought down Adam Simmick for a penalty.

BLOXWICH UNITED 12**PARKSIDE RANGERS U15S 0**

The Red Lions cruised into the next round of the Staffs cup after a dominant performance against Bilston league side Parkside, Hayden Perry and Jordan Garner lead the way.

WILLENHALL TOWN**Lockmen are Dun****DUNKIRK 2 WILLENHALL 1**

The Lockmen showed plenty of spirit but it was not enough to prevent a Midland Alliance defeat at Dunkirk. The opening spell was notable only for the lack of action as neither side really got going.

Willehalla's only shot at goal came from Dean Williams as he saw a powerful drive take a big deflection over the crossbar.

The second half had to be better and thankfully it was. Willehalla had a quick break upfield on 53 minutes but Ansel Gayle lashed into the side-netting when he really should have done better.

They were made to pay for this miss on 61 minutes when Jarrod Westcarr latched on to a through ball and netted. Willehalla had a deserved leveller when Fellows notched his seventh league goal of the season. The Lockmen were finally beaten with two minutes left when a thundering shot ricocheted off the bar, the second effort was headed off the line by keeper Khalsa from scoring.

Khalsa paid the price for the poor finishing when Bridgnorth hit after 65 minutes and scored with the only shot on goal of the entire game. This is two home defeats in two weeks.

KHALSA**Khalsa hit by bad luck****SPORTING KHALSA 0****BRIDGNORTH TOWN RES 1**

Khalsa could not believe their luck. They created at least eight clear chances in the first half but a combination of poor finishes, the goal post and good keeper Khalsa from scoring.

Khalsa paid the price for the poor finishing when Bridgnorth hit after 65 minutes and scored with the only shot on goal of the entire game. This is two home defeats in two weeks.

TABLE TENNIS**Hay secure crucial win****Cheslyn Hay**

A secured an important 6-4 win over Wood Green C.

Nigel Smith and Jeff Parker both won two,

before suffering a 10-0 whitewash at leaders Vic Park A, and a 7-3 defeat against Albrighton in which Tony Ackroyd starred for the winners.

Paul Adams had an excellent victory over Zia Khan, winning 13-11 in the final game, having lost the fourth 23-21.

He couldn't prevent a 9-1 win for the current top dogs over the bottom placed team.

SPORT

thechronicle

You're worse than Merson taunt from Walsall fans

WALSALL 1 PETERBOROUGH 3

"Worse than Paul Merson," sang the growing number of disgruntled Saddlers fans.

Anyons with even a passing knowledge of Walsall will know there is no stronger insult to be issued around the Banks's Stadium.

In truth, the club's former player-manager would have loved his team to have been this good.

Sadly, so locked in a trough of mishaps are Chris Hutchings' side that an improved performance still resulted in a story all too familiar to the denigrated Merson and the current gaffer so far in this season of misery.

At no stage in the game were Walsall ever two goals worse than Peterborough but a 3-1 defeat was their 10th from the last 13 games and although November has only just arrived, the five-point gap to safety already looks pretty chilling.

Those same fans are now calling more vociferously for Hutchings' removal which is clearly Option 2 in the hierarchy's items for discussion.

Option 1 remains to stand firmly by the manager and his lieutenant Martin O'Connor in the belief that owner Jeff Bonser's confidence on their day of appointment – this is the best management team I have ever appointed – was not misplaced.

But Hutchings has been around long enough to know that this unusually sympathetic support from a set of football directors cannot go on indefinitely.

The manager's constant optimism in the face of such a withering set of results has grated on the home punters, who numbered less than 3,000 last night, but for once the upbeat tones of his post-match address had merit.

Undeniable

The Saddlers created chances all evening and their effort was undeniable. They lack creativity and craft but that is not to say they do not possess a goal threat either out wide or down the centre.

As a further sign of the board's support, yet another loan player was wheeled out onto the battlefield last night. Barnsley striker Liam Dickinson enjoyed a lively enough debut even if a couple of opportunities to make a name for himself with some back-post headers went begging.

Dickinson's acquisition, following on from the return of James Walker, is the seventh loan player this season, a legacy most probably of Bonser's preference to beg, borrow and steal rather than commit the club's threadbare coffers to lengthier contracts. It was like that, too, in Merson's day.

But in a weekend in which first Wolves and then Albion reminded us of the huge benefits of a robust and formidable team spirit, Hutchings' critics must accept it is tough to generate the same bond with temporary employees whose futures are uncertain.

That's one problem. More obviously, Hutchings will not survive without his players shutting down the elementary mistakes that have sent them tumbling down the League One rockface like rope-less mountaineers. Two weakly defended set-pieces and a soft-as-you-like counter-attack were the sources of Posh's goals, exposing in the process Walsall's fatal naivete.

Significantly with such an inexperienced back four, Peterborough scored when the Saddlers' concentration was at its most vulnerable. It was bad enough that the home side pulled the rug from under their feet when a cheap 14th minute free-kick, conceded by Clayton McDonald, just inside his own half resulted in Peterborough's Arron Davies dropping a centre into the Saddlers area which Ryan Bennett met with an unchallenged header.

It was bad enough that this wrecked an entirely promising opening from Hutchings' men which had seen Dickinson

denied by a last-ditch block and young full-backs Darryl Westlake and Ryan McGivern pound menacing shots towards keeper Joe Lewis. Westlake brought arguably the save of the game as Lewis' fingertips were enough to touch the ball on to the bar.

Equaliser

But, having conceded such a soft opener, Walsall compounded their error by rushing off in search of an immediate equaliser – leaving the back door swinging on its hinges for Aaron McLean to trigger a counter-attack which finished with Davies beating Walker with some ease.

Two goals spread over 90 seconds; it was proving some homecoming for the popular old boy. Shrugging off the mood of insensitivity running through their supporters, still Walsall threatened and of all the players you would want on the end of your team's best chance before the break, Jon Macken would be an overwhelming choice. Yet Macken, finding daylight after a smart exchange of passes with McGivern, appeared to lose his head at the

moment of execution when he tried to smash a close-range chance through Lewis' body when subtlety would have prevailed. The effort was blocked.

Undeterred, Walsall came out with even greater vigour when the match resumed and by the 53rd minute were back in the game for real. Growing pressure eventually forced Peterborough to concede space to Julian Gray who marked an otherwise low-key performance with a header from a cross by the excellent Martin Devaney.

Crazily, but maybe unsurprisingly, Walsall instantly surrendered their platform for recovery within a minute. A corner immediately conceded in panic and excitement brought three successful touches by Boro' players – two headers setting up Kelvin Langmead for an easy point-blank finish. The voices of dissent grew as the match played out to a pattern of game but fruitless effort by a Walsall team desperately seeking a moment, a player, a twist of fortune perhaps, to turn their season.

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John Macken goes close for Walsall last night but he can't break through at the Banks's Stadium.

Pictures: Ed Bagnall



Walsall celebrate Julian Gray's goal.



Gray goes close but can't double up as Walsall go down 3-1.

How they rated with the Posh

Jimmy Walker: Received a hero's welcome on his return but questions will be raised about whether he should have dealt with Posh's opener. He made one fine fingertip save from Tomlin during a deserved display. **6/10**

Darryl Westlake – Star Man: The teenager came so close to his first Saddlers' goal during an accomplished outing. Didn't let fans down. **7/10**

Clayton McDonald: Made a goal-saving challenge on Mackail-Smith before conceding the free-kick leading to Posh's opener. He must shoulder responsibility with the defence for the visitors' first and second. **5/10**

Manny Smith: Looked uneasy all game and, although he made a few timely interceptions, is a shadow of the player he was last season. **5/10**

Ryan McGivern: He tested Lewis with a fine low effort and broke forward at every opportunity but his mix-up with Gray in the build-up to Peterborough's second goal was so costly. **5/10**

Martin Devaney: Again proved how valuable he is with a peach of an assist for Gray and direct runs down the flank. The winger was replaced by Jones midway through the second half to guard against injury. **7/10**

Richard Taundry: The home-grown midfielder was handed the captaincy for the first time and was understandably over-eager in the opening stages. Came close twice but wasn't able to stop the slump. **6/10**

Matt Richards: A scrappy display and he is still one of the Saddlers' most consistent performers but he, and his team-mates, needed to win more second balls. His delivery let him down on occasion. **6/10**

Julian Gray: The winger struggled to impose himself on the game despite his well-taken header which gave the Saddlers false hope. He was wasteful after, again, working goal positions out wide. **6/10**

Jon Macken: Should have scored in the first half and while he showed some nice touches he flitted in and out of the game. The striker needs better service if he is going to get the goals. **6/10**

Liam Dickinson: Thrown into the fray just hours after signing and should have scored within four minutes. His physical presence unsettled Peterborough throughout and he could turn into a useful outlet. **6/10**

Hutch's side paid the price

Chris Hutchings has admitted Walsall paid the price for their mistakes against ruthless Peterborough. The Saddlers were left bemoaning their "Achilles heel" after conceding twice from set-pieces as Posh ran out 3-1 winners at the Banks's Stadium.

Julian Gray's second-half header gave the hosts hope after quick-fire strikes from Ryan Bennett and Arron Davies put Posh in control.

But Kelvin Langmead's 55th-minute strike, just two minutes after Gray's goal, ended the Saddlers' revival and kept them bottom of League One.

Hutchings, who faced more calls to quit from fans, conceded they cannot keep shooting themselves in the foot after Posh scored three goals from their four shots on target.

"If you make mistakes you will get punished and we've got to make sure we get through this period," he said. "The first was a needless free-kick, which we didn't defend well, and it's been our Achilles heel at times."

"With the second, they hit us on the counter-attack and the third was another set-piece. It's disappointing after the way we played. If you look at the stats we'd come out on top every time."

"I counted 13 shots for us in the first half and they had four. The lads gave their all, we created chances and got the balls into the box but it's not going for us. It's hard to take when you play that well, which was probably our best at home all season."

Hutchings handed an instant debut to Liam Dickinson after the striker signed on a month's loan from Barnsley just hours before the clash.

Defeat was the Saddlers' 10th in 15 league games this season and heaped the pressure on Hutchings.

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THE HOME EXPERTS

Leekes is one of the UK's largest independent retailers with over 100 years experience helping customers create beautiful homes.

We trace our success back to the principles James Henry Leekes set down when he opened his first shop at the turn of the twentieth century – quality products sold at competitive prices complete with excellent customer service – and we still hold those principles dear today.

THE BIGGEST RANGE AND THE BEST BRANDS

With over 40 different kitchen displays, more than 100 bathrooms and showers to choose from, 120 ceiling light fittings, over 40 divers and bed frames and much, much more... we're all about choice.

And that choice extends to famous names such as G Plan, Le Creuset, Rect Assured, Bedrock, Sony, as well as our own brand CASA – look out for the name when you visit us in store.



The biggest Kitchen & Bathroom Studios in the West Midlands

KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF

We recognise that success is difficult without the right people, that's why we invest in and value our staff, many of which have been with us at Bilton for twenty years or more.

Knowledgeable staff play a big part of what we're about and you'll find all our Sales Consultants enthusiastic and happy to help you find exactly what you're looking for.

Offering our customers the best products at competitive prices is a key part of our philosophy.



Tony Squires
Store Manager

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

We like to think that being a family-owned business, selling everything for the home all under one roof, makes us unique – but there are lots of other reasons why we stand out from the crowd too.

FLEXIBLE & AFFORDABLE FINANCE

From interest free credit with no deposit to low APR finance on conservatories.



HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

When we deliver your goods, we'll contact you on the morning of delivery with an estimated arrival time and we'll unpack your goods, taking the packaging away for recycling.



PRICE PROMISE

We promise the best brands at the best prices. If you find something cheaper locally, we'll refund the difference.



360° COMPLETE SERVICE

We like to help customers from start to finish. Ask our Sales Consultants about our free design, planning and project management services.



ONLINE SHOPPING

Thousands of items available to purchase at the press of a button at leekes.co.uk



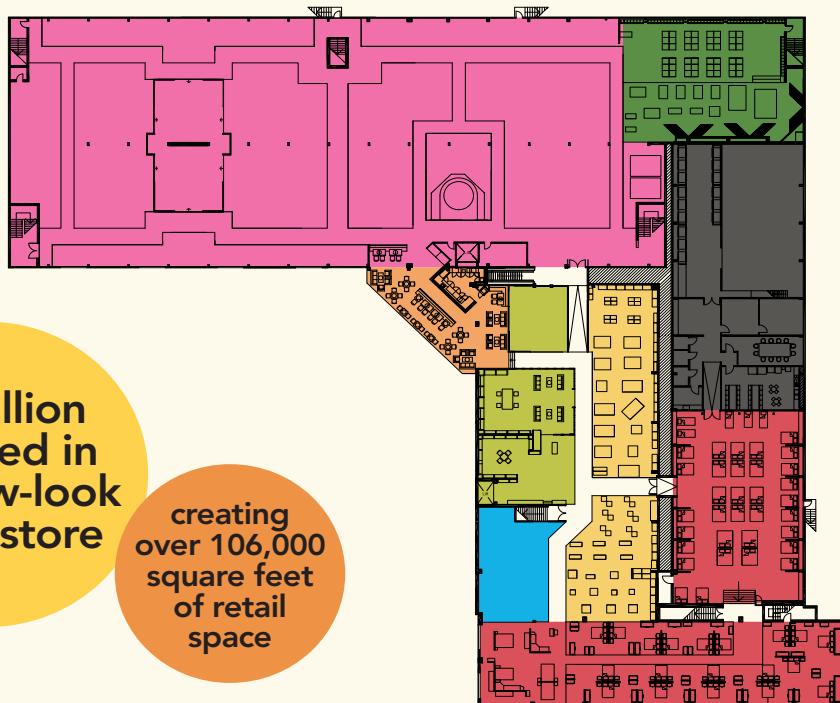
A WHOLE NEW WAY OF SHOPPING FOR YOUR HOME

GROUND FLOOR LAYOUT

Upholstery & Dining Beautiful leather and fabric sofas, contemporary and traditional dining sets. Includes G Plan, Ekornes, Vale, Old Charm and more.	
Hammonds The very best in fitted bedrooms and studies from one of the UK's leading designers.	
Carpets & Kelaty Rugs 2000 colours and patterns of carpet from Adam, Brittons, and Axminster. Plus more than 300 rugs in stock.	
Beds & Bedroom Furniture Over 40 divans and bedframes, mattresses and matching wardrobes, drawers and more.	
Casa Coffee Enjoy speciality coffees, teas, soft drinks and light meals in our new coffee shop. Open all day every day (from December).	
Interior Design Studio Bespoke service featuring fabrics, materials and paints from Osborne and Little, Romo and the UK's first Kelly Hoppen Studio.	
Home Textiles Bedding, cushions, throws, curtains, poles and blinds from the best in the business - Fine Bedding Company, Beddeck, Swish and more.	

£3 million invested in the new-look home store

creating over 106,000 square feet of retail space



FIRST FLOOR LAYOUT

Kitchen Studio 40 different displays and the latest appliances. Choose from Sheraton, Rotpunkt, Cuisina, NEFF, Hotpoint, Caple and more.	
Lighting 120 ceiling light fittings on display along with a collection of table lamps, floor lamps and garden lighting.	
Sound & Vision 30 displays from Sony and Panasonic including 3D TV, Blu-Ray and cinema systems.	
Kitchen & Tableware Kitchen accessories, small electricals and cooking utensils from Le Creuset, Jamie Oliver, Brabantia, Portmeirion and more.	
Bathroom Studio 100+ bathroom and shower displays and a big choice of bathroom accessories from Miller, Vossen, Salter and many more.	
Windows, Doors & Conservatories From uPVC windows and doors to beautiful hardwood conservatories, garden rooms and orangeries.	
Christmas Shop Decorations, trees, wrap and Christmas cards. And keep an eye out for Santa in his Grotto!	
Accessories & Gifts Gifts for him, her and the home. Antler luggage, Bulaggi handbags, jewellery, scarves and toiletries.	
Fire Studio 35 displays of gas, electric and solid fuel stoves from Flamerite, Dimplex, Broseley Stoves, Casa and Laura Ashley.	
Fitness & Leisure Keep fit and look good with Animal, Protest, Craghoppers and Fitflop. Selection of fitness equipment also available.	

9 DAYS UNTIL OUR BIG WEEKEND!



20% BACK IN VOUCHERS
20TH – 29TH⁺ NOVEMBER

We pride ourselves on being the home experts and we're delighted to be able to extend our know-how, range and choice to customers in the West Midlands.

The new-look store joins our flagship stores in Wales and the West of England. The biggest ranges and the best brands are now available to view across two floors of our new-look home store at Bilston.

Take a virtual tour around our new departments on this page before you join us for our **BIG WEEKEND**.

9 DAYS TIL LEEKES OF BILSTON'S **BIG WEEKEND**

GREAT BRIDGE ROAD, BILSTON 20TH – 21ST NOVEMBER

We're counting down to our **BIG WEEKEND** on **Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st November** – and you're invited!

Our **BIG WEEKEND** sees us celebrate our newly refurbished store where you'll discover a whole new way of shopping for your home.

We're famous for our huge choice of furniture, from luxurious sofas to fabulous dining sets, and now there's home accessories, TV's, bed linen, lighting and more.

And there's the biggest Kitchen and Bathroom Studios in the West Midlands.

Come and join us at our **BIG WEEKEND**. After all, at Leekes, you're home.

20% BACK
IN VOUCHERS
20TH – 29TH[†]
NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

- Live interior design demo with Richard Randall from ITV's *60 Minute Makeover* (1pm)
- Live cookery demo with TV chef Martin Blunos (11:30am)
- Beacon FM breakfast crew in store
- Children's fun and entertainment
- Complimentary refreshments all day
- Free prize draw



Richard Randall



Martin Blunos

SUNDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

- Live charity auction hosted by *Flog It's!* Paul Martin. Fantastic Leekes products at crazy prices! (2pm)
- Live cookery demos from NEFF
- Children's fun and entertainment
- Complimentary refreshments all day
- Free prize draw

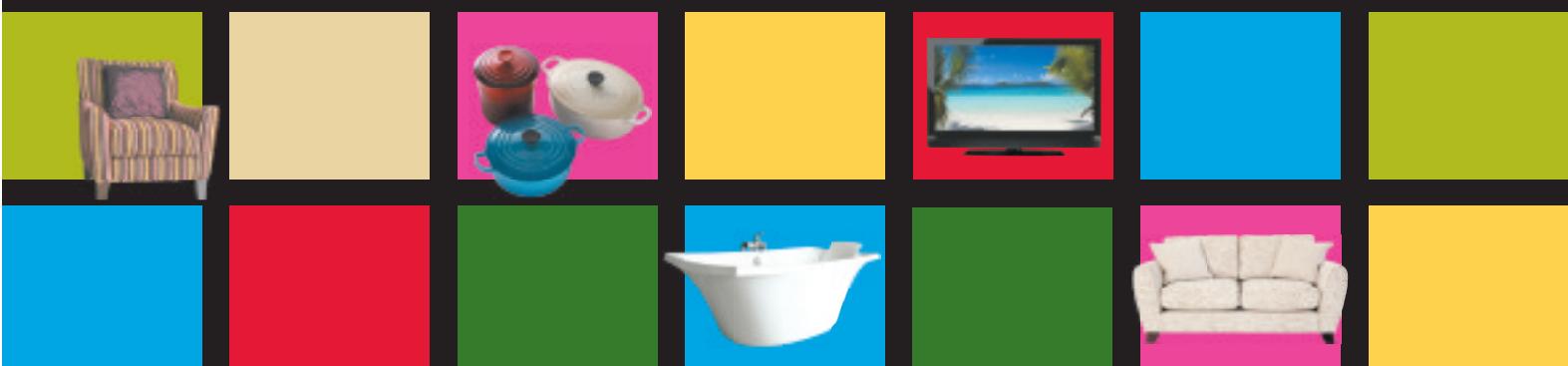


Paul Martin



Fun for children

**DON'T
MISS IT!**



FOLLOW US ON
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facebook.com/leekesltd



Tel: 0845 050 8240
leekes.co.uk

† Conditions apply, see in store for details



Leekes
You're home